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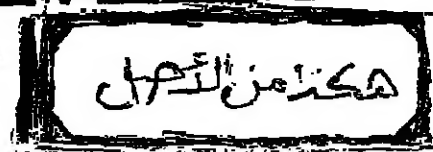
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# FINANCIAL TIMES

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## NEWS SUMMARY

### GENERAL

**Weighell calls on Callaghan to resign**

Railwaymen's leader Sid Weighell has called on James Callaghan to resign as leader of the Labour Party.

Mr. Weighell, a moderate, said there was a group in the party executive who were constantly trying to undermine Mr. Callaghan's standing as leader and so long as that continued "I think it would be better for him to go and let somebody else come in."

The NUR supported the party leader against the Leftwing at the Labour conference and Mr. Weighell said he intended to continue the fight against their bid for control. **Back Page**

### BUSINESS

**Bulk of BNOC oil for UK refiners**

UK OIL REFINERS, notably British Petroleum, are expected to obtain the bulk of 250,000 tons of crude oil being sold by British National Oil Corporation. Forward sales negotiations are nearly complete and a progress report is imminent. **Back Page**

### EEC pressure

Britain is likely to be pressed by EEC partners this week to relax its tough stand against helping French sheep farmers at the expense of the Community taxpayer. Two main areas of concern are how to limit lamb exports from non-EEC suppliers and how to protect member farmers against the drop in prices resulting from free trade. **Back Page**

### Murder charge

Three men will appear in court today charged with murdering Mrs. Ann Carrer and Mrs. Christine Blood, found dead at a country mansion near Congleton, Cheshire, last Monday.

### Nuclear question

Defence Secretary Francis Pym is to be questioned in the Commons about a computer error which set off a false alarm of a Soviet missile attack on the U.S. Labour MP Robert Crier will urge Mr. Pym to cease attempts to replace Britain's nuclear weapons when Polaris is scrapped.

### Cabinet change

President D. Moi of Kenya is expected to announce a major reshuffle of his administration following the defeat of one-third of his cabinet in the general election last week. **Page 2**

### Mayor jailed

Israeli military authorities have jailed the mayor of Nablus, the largest town in the occupied West Bank, in preparation for deportation because of his support for the Palestinian Liberation Organisation. **Page 2**

### Potholer lost

More than 120 rescuers took part in the search for potholer Jeremy Peterson, 25, missing in the complex North Yorkshire Gaping Gill system since Saturday. Volunteers from all over the North joined an RAF mountain rescue team in the hunt.

### Back to basics

The Government is to publish plans for a basic core of subjects, including English, mathematics, a science and a foreign language, to be taught in secondary schools in England and Wales. No child would be allowed to drop the four subjects before the fifth form.

### Welsh 'ghetto'

Welsh Secretary Nicholas Edwards has defended the Government's decision to drop its commitment to establish a Welsh language service on the fourth channel. He said it would have put the Welsh language into a 'ghetto'.

### Briefly...

Clippings of triple Grand National winner Red Rum's hair have been woven into cloth for hacking jackets selling for £250. Police evacuated 8,000 people from Mississauga, near Toronto, after a train carrying chlorine gas jumped the rails and caught fire.

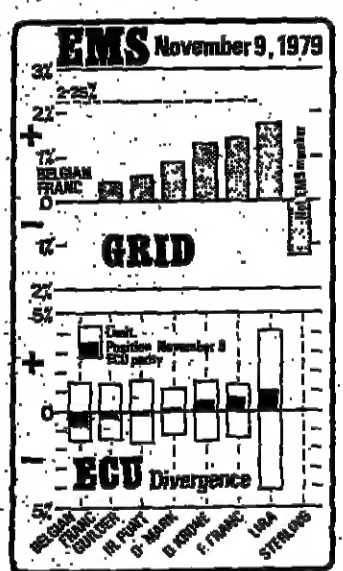
**RELAXATIONS** in the Davignon plan for protecting European steel industry have angered private sector steel-makers, who account for about 20 per cent of UK output. Their trade association says nearly all proposals will hit independent steelmakers. **Page 25**

**MRS. THATCHER** will demand a substantial cut in Britain's £1.2bn contribution to the EEC budget today when she receives President Giscard d'Estaing for two days of talks. **Page 8**

**SURVEY** by National Federation of Building Trades Employers shows gradual slowdown in rate of new orders for two sectors of building industry. **Page 6**

**NATIONAL WESTMINSTER** Bank is offering customers the chance to open accounts in over 12 different currencies following abolition of exchange controls last month. **Page 4**

**EUROPEAN Monetary System** underwent little change last week with the Belgian franc, against the weaker currency, although not under heavy pressure. The Italian lira remained top of the group, followed by the French franc, the Dutch guilder, German domestic interest rates eased slightly, taking pressure off Amsterdam money market rates, while Belgian National Bank raised the Treasury bill rates. Despite the strong French franc, Paris call-money rose to 12 1/2 per cent on Friday, the highest level for over three years.



The chart shows the two constraints on exchange rates within the European Monetary System: the 'grid' of cross rates from which no currency (except the DM) may move more than 2 1/2 per cent and the varying degrees by which each currency may diverge from its 'central rate' against the European Currency Unit (ECU). The 'grid' is always shown by reference to the weakest currency in the system, which is the base line in the top chart.

**ITALIAN** retail prices rose 2.3 per cent in October, making a year-on-year increase of 18.2 per cent official statistics show. The trade balance slipped back into the red at the same time. **Back Page**

**AKER** shipbuilding and heavy engineering group of Norway made a small profit of Nkr 10.6m (£1.02m) in the first eight months against Nkr 40.2m previously. **Page 32**

**HONG KONG** Air Transport Licensing Authority today opens public hearings of applications for rights to fly new cheap services from London by British Caledonian, Cathay Pacific and Laker Airways. **Page 6**

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## Iran takes hard line against moves to free hostages

BY ANDREW WHITLEY

Intense diplomatic efforts to free the 100 U.S. and Asian hostages in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran were stepped up over the weekend but produced no sign of a breakthrough.

The mood in Iran appears to have hardened against concessions following an angry speech by Ayatollah Khomeini on Saturday night attacking President Carter.

In a speech over the State radio Khomeini bitterly attacked Mr. Carter's "treachery" and described him as a self-serving politician. The broadcast appears to have reunited many Iranians against a common enemy, healing the growing divisions to appear in their ranks in recent weeks.

Nevertheless, a close aide left the door open for negotiations with the U.S. if Washington publicly recognised what he called "our legitimate demands" and the Ayatollah appeared to lessen the threat of killing of the hostages by describing them as "our guests."

With only a limited number of options available to Mr. Carter, Mr. Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr, recently appointed to supervise Iran's foreign affairs, said no negotiations were possible until the U.S. showed its good intentions.

Mediation efforts by a wide range of parties, from the Palestine Liberation Organisation to the Pakistani Government—over two dozen Pakistanis are among the hostages—appear to be flagging. All the prospects

are for a long, drawn-out waiting game.

Britain and other Western Powers will come under pressure today or tomorrow to support the Iranian authorities in their campaign for return of the ailing Shah from the U.S. to stand trial for "crimes against the people."

Mr. Bani-Sadr said he would summon all the foreign envoys in Tehran to a meeting at the Foreign Ministry to ask them to intervene with the U.S.

Outside the U.S. Embassy yesterday some 300 Air Force cadets in uniform took part in a noisy demonstration in support of the Moslem militants' action.

It was the first public action by a branch of the armed forces since the full takeover of power by Khomeini's clergyman a week ago.

The Embassy's occupiers and other sympathisers have declared the start of a five-day fast from today.

On Saturday, the envoys from Sweden, Algeria, Syria and France were permitted to see the hostages. Monsignor Amabile Bugnini, the Papal Nuncio, was jostled and heckled when he made a similar trip yesterday. The captives were reported well but tired.

Jurek Martin, writes from

Washington: The main purpose of Mr. Carter's weekend threat to deport illegal Iranian students was to calm the growing sense of domestic outrage over the incarceration of the U.S. diplomatic mission in Tehran.

The action, it was stressed, was the minimum necessary response to try to ensure that the hostages were released unharm.

Violent clashes between Iranian student demonstrators and Americans in several places, most notably Los Angeles, gave rise to concern that retaliation would be visited on the captive Americans in Tehran.

So worried was the White House that on Saturday senior executives of the three television networks were summoned and warned of the adverse consequences of sensationalised news coverage of such clashes.

The deportation threat is nothing like as draconian as it might appear on the surface. Whatever its inclinations, the Administration is tied by the rule of law in any proceedings its instigates against foreigners inside its borders.

There are believed to be over 50,000 Iranians in the U.S. classified as "students," most

Continued on Back Page

## Soviet attack on Mrs. Thatcher

THE SOVIET Press yesterday directed a barrage of criticism against Mrs. Margaret Thatcher.

Using the toughest language since Mrs. Thatcher came to power, Pravda, Izvestia and the official news agency Tass all carried commentaries attacking her.

Alexander Bovin, Izvestia's senior commentator, reviewing the tour of Western Europe by Hua Guofeng, the Chinese leader, contrasted British applause for his anti-Soviet views with the refusal by governments in West Germany, France and Italy to abandon détente with Moscow.

"Conservatives are Conservatives, even in a century of progress," Mr. Bovin said, describing their policy towards China as dangerous and irresponsible.

He said that Mrs. Thatcher enthusiastically applauded Chairman Hua's attacks on the Soviet Union, while Mr. Francis Pym, the Defence Secretary, said Britain was ready to sell Harriers and other arms to China.

"London is looking through one eye when it should be looking through two," Mr. Bovin said.

"All people who cherish the interests of peace, and especially States which border on China, cannot remain indifferent to attempts to rearm a country whose policies may lead to conflict."

Quoting a U.S. newspaper which suggested that Britain was playing with fire by ignoring vital Soviet Security interests, he said: "Perhaps Mrs. Thatcher, as an 'iron lady,' is not afraid of fire. But what are all the other British people to do?"

Mrs. Thatcher and Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, are sharply rebuked by Tass for insisting on the need to step up Western defences and negotiate with the Soviet Union from a position of strength.

Tass said their recent statements were a virtual admission that the Conservative Government was not interested in easing international tensions.

Counting on blackmail with regard to the Soviet Union, the present London leaders are deliberately undermining chances for conducting talks with the USSR," said Tass.

According to Pravda the British Government is trying to restore British rule in Rhodesia, exclude the Patriotic Front, and hand over power to people who would maintain the position of the white minority.

Reuter.

NATO works on East-West arms control proposal **Back Page**

## Front 'return' inevitable, says Smith

BY BRIDGET BLOOM IN LONDON AND TONY HAWKINS IN SALISBURY

MR. IAN SMITH, Rhodesia's former Prime Minister, has told the country's 250,000 whites to prepare for the return and active participation in politics of Mr. Joshua Nkomo and Mr. Robert Mugabe, co-leaders of the Patriotic Front guerrilla alliance.

Mr. Smith, who returned to Salisbury yesterday, said he believed that the Lancaster House talks would reach all-party agreement on Rhodesia's new constitution.

Mr. Smith, now Minister without Portfolio in Bishop Muzorewa's Government, said that many delegates had gone to the London constitutional talks nine weeks ago hoping that it would be possible to arrive at an agreement which excluded the Patriotic Front.

The British Government, however, was determined to bring the "terrorists" in. "You cannot exclude them. Everybody's got to be realistic about this. They are going to be here. They are going to be part of our country."

Mr. Smith was accompanied by Mr. David Mukome, Foreign Minister and Bishop Muzorewa's chief spokesman at the London conference, who declared that talks were close to a successful conclusion.

In London yesterday, there was some optimism that the wide gap last week between the Patriotic Front and Britain had been narrowed. But major differences remain.

It is believed that President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, who left London yesterday after a four-day visit, may have put forward proposals aimed at bridging the gap. He met Mrs. Margaret Thatcher and Lord Carrington for about six hours during his stay.

It was suggested last night that a compromise might be found on the timing of the transitional period, fixing it at three months from an effective ceasefire, instead of Britain's original two months and the Patriotic Front's six.

The major sticking point is now believed to be the status accorded to the rival armies of the Rhodesian regime and the Patriotic Front.

Mr. Nkomo said last night that Britain's plan, by failing to give equal status to the rival armies in the transitional administration, "effectively means that our forces have to surrender."

It was important that both forces should have exactly equal status, otherwise the Front armies would have no legitimacy, in spite of the fact that it was they who had

brought Salisbury to the negotiating table. Their lack of legitimacy, Mr. Nkomo added, would prejudice their use as part of a new Zimbabwe army.

It was not enough that Britain had conceded that the rival armies should have equal status during the ceasefire.

Under Britain's plan, both forces are to be responsible to the British Governor, who would be advised by a military council on which Rhodesia and Front forces would be represented.

Neither was it right that Britain should decide that these military questions should be resolved once the Front had accepted the interim plan. The question of status was covered by Article 13 of the plan and had to be resolved now, Mr. Nkomo said.

Last night it was not clear whether a compromise might be possible, which could be based on Britain's proposal to suspend last Friday to form a Commonwealth force to monitor the ceasefire.

### Force

Britain envisages a force of "several hundred men" which would monitor the ceasefire, but would not intervene to maintain it, as the Front would like. Any attempt to transform such a body into a peacekeeping force seems bound to meet opposition from Salisbury.

Apparently rejecting even the monitoring force, Mr. Rowan Croft, Deputy Minister for Lands and a key adviser to Bishop Muzorewa, said at a Rhodesian radio interview at the weekend that there was "no question of a third force or any army from the Commonwealth coming in... for any purpose whatsoever."

Senior Government officials in Salisbury also dismissed speculation that Bishop Muzorewa might agree to guerrillas being stationed—in formal or informal barracks during the interim period.

The Lancaster House conference opens its 10th week with a plenary session this morning. After Saturday's meeting, when Britain continued its refusal to accept detailed Front criticisms of its interim plan, this week may see more informal working groups designed to overcome specific points of difference.

The feeling remains that if there is to be the dramatic and rapid progress hinted at by Mr. Smith, there must only come with a major change of view by one of the sides.

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**66** M&G American Recovery Fund will be run along similar lines to the group's existing Recovery Fund which has been outstandingly successful in backing similar shares in the British market. **FINANCIAL TIMES 16.6.79**

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**THE M&G GROUP**

## Tesco alleges boycott by Thorn Group over price cutting

BY DAVID CHURCHILL, CONSUMER AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THORN is refusing to supply colour televisions and audio equipment to the Tesco supermarket chain because of Tesco's cut-price policy, according to a complaint by the Office of Fair Trading.

Such a refusal would be contrary to the legislation in force for the past 15 years, since resale price maintenance was outlawed in 1964.

Tesco met senior OFT officials late last week and alleged that, after two years of trying to obtain supplies from Thorn, Thorn was still refusing to supply video and audio goods selling under the Ferguson brand. Tesco alleges that the only reason for Thorn's refusal to supply is Tesco's policy of cutting its profit margin on branded goods and selling at a lower price than that recommended by the

manufacturer. Thorn said yesterday it was unable to comment until it had received details of the complaint from the OFT.

Tesco's complaint to the OFT is the latest move in the dispute over pricing policies which has existed between retailers and manufacturers since the early 1960s.

Although resale price maintenance was officially abolished in 1964, under legislation steered through Parliament by Mr. Edward Heath, some manufacturers have either refused to obey the law or have found loopholes in its operation. Earlier this year, the OFT successfully took Hotpoint, a subsidiary of the General Electric Company, to the High Court, over its refusal to supply the Comet discount chain with electrical appliances.

Retailers, such as Tesco, who operate a cut-price policy, claim that manufacturers of cosmetics, cameras, clothing, and jewellery also refuse to supply some discount retailers.

The OFT is keen to tighten up the loopholes in the law, although this may need some legislation.

Mr. Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, said recently: "I do sometimes have to take action against manufacturers alleged to be breaking the law and I am concerned about various techniques which come close to resale price maintenance but may not actually infringe the legislation."

The OFT is expected to ask Thorn for its explanation of Tesco's complaint before considering whether any further action may be necessary.

News Analysis, Page 14



## OVERSEAS NEWS

## S. Korea plans direct elections for Presidency

BY RONALD RICHARDSON IN SEOUL

SOUTH KOREA'S acting President Choi Kyu-hah has proposed that an election should be held to choose a permanent successor to President Park Chung-hee, who was assassinated by his intelligence chief two weeks ago.

In the meantime, the provisions of the existing constitution will be followed, and a new head of state will be appointed by the 2,579-man electoral college which last year reappointed President Park unopposed.

However, whoever is elected in this indirect manner will immediately begin working towards constitutional amendments to allow for the direct presidential election. This interim President, widely expected to be Choi Kyu-hah, will step down in favour of a directly elected head of state.

In a televised statement, acting President Choi broke away from the rigid position of the late President Park, who introduced the indirect electoral method in 1972.

President Choi said South Korea "ought to promote political development commensurate with our economic and social growth." Significantly, he used the same phrasing as U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who visited Seoul in June and urged President Park to allow normal

Democratic processes to develop in Korea.

President Choi urged that people maintain self-restraint during the period of transition, as "any social disorder that may arise would invite another invasion by the North Korean Communists."

In an apparent warning to the Army, which was instrumental in thwarting the coup attempt by President Park's assassin, Kim Jaekyu, the former Korean Central Intelligence Agency director, President Choi said several times that there should be no attempt at "disruption of constitutional government."

A government official said the appointment of President Choi's interim successor would take place before the end of this year. He said he expected opposition members of the National Assembly to accept the proposal for constitutional reform. Private contacts with opposition had revealed "a spirit of moderation," he said.

He added that a "draft Choi Kyu-hah campaign" was already under way among

AP adds: Kim Young-Sam, the Opposition leader immediately denounced the plan as "a big disappointment." Mr. Kim repeated his call to begin amending the constitution within three months and hold presidential elections in six or seven months.

## Bolivia coup leader holds on to power

By Hugh O'Shaughnessy

A BELEAGUERED Colonel Alberto Natusch Busch was desperately clinging to power in Bolivia yesterday despite the refusal of Sr. Walter Guevara Arze, the provisional Guillian president, and the Congress to recognise the legitimacy of his ten-day-old military coup.

Colonel Natusch, whose action on November 1 prompted the U.S. to halt aid to Bolivia, received another blow from abroad at the weekend when Venezuela announced it was cutting aid to the country. In the past, oil-rich Venezuela has backed Bolivian aspirations to recover the Pacific coastline which the country lost in a war with Chile 100 years ago.

On Saturday, 197 of the 144 members of Congress met in La Paz and rejected Natusch's pleas for a civilian politician and a trade unionist to join him in a triumvirate which would share power until Presidential elections on May 4.

## Gas train crashes

Police yesterday evacuated about 5,000 people from their homes in the industrial town of Mississauga, near Toronto, after a goods train carrying poisonous chlorine gas jumped the rails and caught fire. Reuter reports from Toronto. About 150 firemen who rushed to the scene to fight a chemical fire from tanks of propane and other gases threw up a wall of water around the burning wagons.

## Israelis jail W. Bank mayor

BY DAVID LENNON IN TEL AVIV

THE ISRAELI military authorities yesterday jailed the Mayor of Nablus, the largest town on the occupied West Bank, in preparation for his deportation because of his support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and his struggle against Jewish settlement.

Mr. Bassam Shaka's arrest led to a total strike in the town, the resignation of the municipal council, and brought stone-throwing demonstrators into the streets, as tension rose on the West Bank.

At the same time, a Cabinet meeting decided to expand Jewish settlement in the occupied territories. A Cabinet spokesman said this would include building new settlements and enlarging existing ones tenfold by constructing an additional 10,000 housing units.

At the same time as the Cabinet decision a large group of Jerusalem slum-dwellers invaded one of the settlements on the West Bank to protest at the Government's "waste of money" on settlements, when no funds were available for housing the poor in Israel.

There is a strong connection between the action against Mr. Shaka and the Cabinet's decision to expand settlement. Mr. Shaka was one of the people behind the legal action which led the Supreme Court to order the Eilon Moreh settlement beside Nablus disbanded. And the Cabinet proclaimed its intention to expand settlements in the occupied territories as a sop to the Eilon Moreh settlers, who threatened to resist the court order to evacuate private Arab land.

Moderate and radical opinion in the occupied territories united yesterday in condemnation of the arrest. Angry youngsters stoned Israeli vehicles, while mayors in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip denounced the action.

The mayors have threatened to resign if Mr. Shaka is deported for his outspoken Palestinian nationalism. They held meetings yesterday to protest at his arrest.

At one meeting, calls for the creation of a Palestinian state and the leadership of the PLO were received with prolonged applause. Last night, a massed meeting of all the mayors and heads of local councils was due to be held in Ramallah, in defiance of a military Government ban on such meetings.

The Israeli authorities intend to keep Mr. Shaka in jail until the Supreme Court lifts a temporary injunction issued on Thursday forbidding his deportation. The administrative detention could last for several

days, while the mayor's lawyers battle the expulsion order through a series of court hearings.

Reuter adds from Abu Dhabi: Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO, is to submit proposals at the Arab summit later this month on the use of oil as a political weapon. He told the Abu Dhabi newspaper Al-Fajr yesterday that the use of oil as a weapon was a legitimate right.

Mr. Arafat again denounced the Camp David peace agreements between Israel and Egypt and said the U.S. should renounce them.

The PLO leader also expressed hopes for a dialogue with Britain, which he said had an historical and moral commitment to the Palestinians and denied any link between the PLO and the Irish Republican Army.

## Vatican '£9.8m in deficit'

The Vatican is expecting a £170m (£9.8m) deficit for this year—with every prospect that matters will get worse in the years ahead if current economic trends continue. Report Cornewell writes from Rome.

This unprecedented glimpse of the state of the finances of the Catholic church came in the communiqué marking the end of the five-day Consistory at the weekend—the first of its kind for more than 400 years.

The confirmation of an anticipated "loss" for 1979 came after Pope John Paul II had told the cardinals that constant reports of vast undeveloped riches owned by the Vatican were "a dangerous myth." The statement said income from the Holy See's property and investment holdings was absolutely insufficient to cover the cost of the central government of the church, and of the Pope's universal mission. The deficit would only be covered by voluntary gifts.

No independence yet Bermuda is not yet ready to seek independence from Britain, according to a White Paper just presented to Parliament by the Premier, Mr. David Gibbons, writes Keith Hunt. The paper accepts that independence is a real possibility, but no date is set and there is no strong opinion that Bermuda should take the big step towards self-rule.

E. German production East Germany's Communist leadership yesterday ordered State funds to be pumped into industries where they would produce the quickest results and factories to be built twice as fast, Reuter reports from East Berlin.

UN food warning Hunger and malnutrition will continue to haunt the poorest nations of the world even if the most strenuous efforts are made to increase food and agricultural production, according to a report presented to a UN conference on food in Rome yesterday, our foreign staff write.

Bid to stop takeovers A Bill to limit the buying of U.S. banks by foreign companies will be introduced into the House of Representatives next week, Reuter reports from Washington.

New York Democrat, Mr. Benjamin Rosenfeld, said yesterday his Bill would allow small acquisitions by foreign concerns, but would prevent larger deals.

Gromyko for Madrid The Soviet news agency has officially confirmed that Mr. Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, will visit Spain in the second week of November. AP reports from Moscow. Unofficial reports from Madrid have said Mr. Gromyko will arrive on November 12.

Sahara deaths Saharan guerrillas claim to have killed 60 Moroccan soldiers in a battle last week near Bu Craa, the phosphate mining centre of the former Spanish Sahara, whose independence the guerrillas are seeking. AP reports from Algiers.

Hope for tanker fades THE search for survivors of the missing Norwegian freighter "Berge Vanga" faded on Saturday when a white object sighted by search aircraft turned out to be a chunk of polystyrene. AP reports from Cape Town. The ship, which has been missing since October 26, had a crew of 40, and was carrying iron ore from Brazil to Japan when it disappeared in the South Atlantic. Two U.S. military Orion aircraft left on their first search mission on Saturday after arriving on Friday from Brazil.

## Botha in row with coloureds

BY BERNARD SIMON IN JOHANNESBURG

HOPES OF a political accommodation between the South African Government and the country's 2.5m people of mixed descent (coloureds) suffered a serious setback after a meeting between coloured leaders and Mr. P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, ended in deadlock.

The meeting was called for preliminary discussions on the constitutional future of the coloureds who have shown increasingly bitter opposition in recent years to the separate political institutions created for them by Pretoria.

At the stormy meeting on Friday, the coloured leaders stood firm in refusing to give evidence to the Schabusch Commission which is drawing up a new constitution.

According to a transcript of the talks, Mr. Botha said, at one point, "I'm giving you a final warning. One man, one vote in this country is out; that is, never. And now I'm saying again—don't try to do anything unconstitutional. You will be sorry for yourselves."

Mr. Botha threatened to disband the coloured "Parliament," the coloured people's representative council and to work instead with more pro-Government elements in the coloured community.

Mr. Botha's hard line on coloured policy came as something of a surprise. Coming from the Cape, where most of the country's coloureds live, he had been believed to favour closer integration between coloured and white political institutions.

## Zaire backs inquiry

KINSHASA—Mr. Nguma Karl-Bond, Zaire's State Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, has called for the establishment of an international commission to investigate allegations that Zaire troops massacred 300 young people in the country last July, the official AZAP news agency said at the weekend.

The Paris-based International Human Rights Federation alleged that the young people were all killed in a youth camp at Mbudi-Mayi, AZAP said.

## Three held in clampdown on Chinese dissidents

BY JOHN HOFFMANN IN PEKING

THREE HUMAN rights activists were arrested yesterday after an unofficial transcript of the trial of China's best-known dissident went on sale.

The three, members of a democratic discussion group, called the April 5 Forum, were believed to be selling the transcript of the trial of Wei Jingsheng, who was jailed for 15 years for "counter-revolutionary crimes."

They were arrested by the Chinese militia during a demonstration at Peking's Democracy Wall, the scene of most "underground" activities in support of democratic freedoms.

Some foreign journalists are reported to have been involved in fighting which broke out between militia and demonstrators. Two were struck during the melee.

Much of the transcript has already appeared on the wall. Authorities have made no effort to remove it and yesterday, 32 pages were still there.

The April 5 Forum, named after the date of the 1976 human rights riots in Tiananmen Square, has been a leading group in the public debate surrounding the sentencing of Wei Jingsheng. Their pamphlets branded Wei's trial as unfair and a demonstration of the Chinese leadership's intention to crush opposition to autocratic Communist Party rule.

Police are believed to have told the demonstrators yesterday that the transcripts of trial evidence were "illegal documents."

John Hoffmann adds: The United Nations High Commission for Refugees has promised to contribute US\$18.8m to refugee resettlement projects in China. In one of four projects agreed to this week, China will airlift 10,000 Indo-Chinese refugees from ASEAN countries and settle them on specially-established farms.

The other schemes are intended to help provide accommodation and work for about 150,000 refugees, most of Chinese origin, who have fled to China from Northern Vietnam since early last year.

This week's agreement follows a request by China for direct UN aid in defraying the cost of absorbing a total of 251,000 refugees from Vietnam.

## Poles detain protesters

WARSAW — Police yesterday held at least 30 Polish dissidents in an effort to block a demonstration to mark the anniversary of Poland's independence.

The dissidents were planning to march from St. John's Cathedral in Warsaw's old city last night and lay wreaths at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier to mark the date, which the Communist authorities have ignored.

The activists were rounded up in Warsaw, Krakow and Gdansk. Police may hold people for up to 48 hours without charges.

Most of those detained were members or supporters of the Public Self-Defence Committee (KOR), a dissident group which

has not taken part in previous demonstrations. The organisers of the march are members of a rival group, the Traditionalist Human and Civil Rights Defence Movement.

There was no word from the group's leaders and it was not known if they had been detained or had gone into hiding.

The Mayor of Belgrade has threatened to resign if city suppliers do not improve their performance to overcome recent shortages of food and fuel.

Mr. Zivorad Kovacevic said at the weekend that unless the situation improved, the suppliers would have to resign before he did for breaking their agreements with the city.

Reuter

## Poll thins ranks of Kenyatta 'old guard'

BY QUENTIN PEEL IN NAIROBI

PRESIDENT DANIEL Arap Moi of Kenya is expected to announce a major reshuffle of his administration this week following the defeat of one-third of his cabinet in last week's general election.

The re-organisation will be the first occasion President Moi has had, since he succeeded to the presidency last year in the wake of the death of Mr. Jomo Kenyatta, to put his own personal stamp on the Government. But although the President may be content that a number of the Kenyatta "old guard" were defeated in the election, he has also lost several close allies whom he might otherwise have promoted.

Final results showed that seven cabinet ministers out of 31 were defeated, most of them long-serving members of the

Government since independence. In addition, 13 assistant ministers, from whose ranks several might have been expected to join the cabinet, were beaten in a poll which left almost half the country's parliamentarians out of a job.

The decimation of the ranks in the National Assembly is seen here as a 'healthy' expression of democracy in Kenya, in spite of the fact that the country is a de facto one-party state. The election of two non-African, one European and one Asian, is also being presented as a resounding endorsement of Kenya's non-racial constitution. Both were elected in widespread black support.

The last senior minister to be defeated was Mr. Jackson Ang'ao, the Minister of Lands and Settlements and a member of the Cabinet since 1963. He

joined the defeated ministers of Labour, Education, Works, Power and Communication, Water Development, and Natural Resources, whose results were announced earlier—all long-standing members of the Government.

President Moi's new administration is expected to include some leading technocrats entering Parliament for the first time after careers in business and the civil service, as well as others who have been particularly faithful to him.

Key attention in the reshuffle will be focused on the job of Foreign Minister, where Dr. Munyua Waiyaki, the incumbent, may be in danger in spite of winning a tough battle for his Nairobi slum seat. Dr. Waiyaki is regarded by some as being too outspoken and Left-wing for the rather conser-

vative rule of President Moi. Two other ministers, both old-timers, may be in danger—Mr. James Gichuru, the Minister of Defence, and Mr. Paul Ngel. Men who might expect promotion to the Cabinet include Mr. G. G. Karuki, an assistant minister and close confidant of the President, Mr. Shairi Nassir, his leading supporter in Mombasa, and Mr. Kenneth Mathia, the chairman of East African Breweries.

However President Moi's job has been made more difficult by the loss of several close supporters, particularly in the tribal area in the west. For supporters who might have expected cabinet seats were lost there, in an apparent backlash against the refusal by the Kenya African National Union (KANU) to allow Mr. Oginga Odinga the former vice presi-

dent and veteran Luo leader, to stand. The Tanzanian government has responded to accusations by Luo Luo, British multi-national, it was planning not to pay compensation for the company's assets which have been nationalised.

Luo Luo last week called for the World Bank to withhold aid from Tanzania because of that government's alleged refusal to pay adequate compensation for the company's tea plantations, engineering plants and other trading businesses in the country. Sir George Bolton, the deputy executive chairman of Luo Luo also claimed that the accounts, Coopers and Lybrand Tanzania, instructed by the Tanzanian government to withhold their audit findings from Luo Luo and the British Foreign Office.

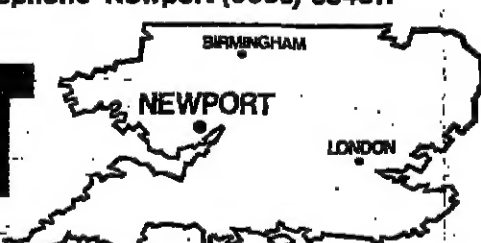
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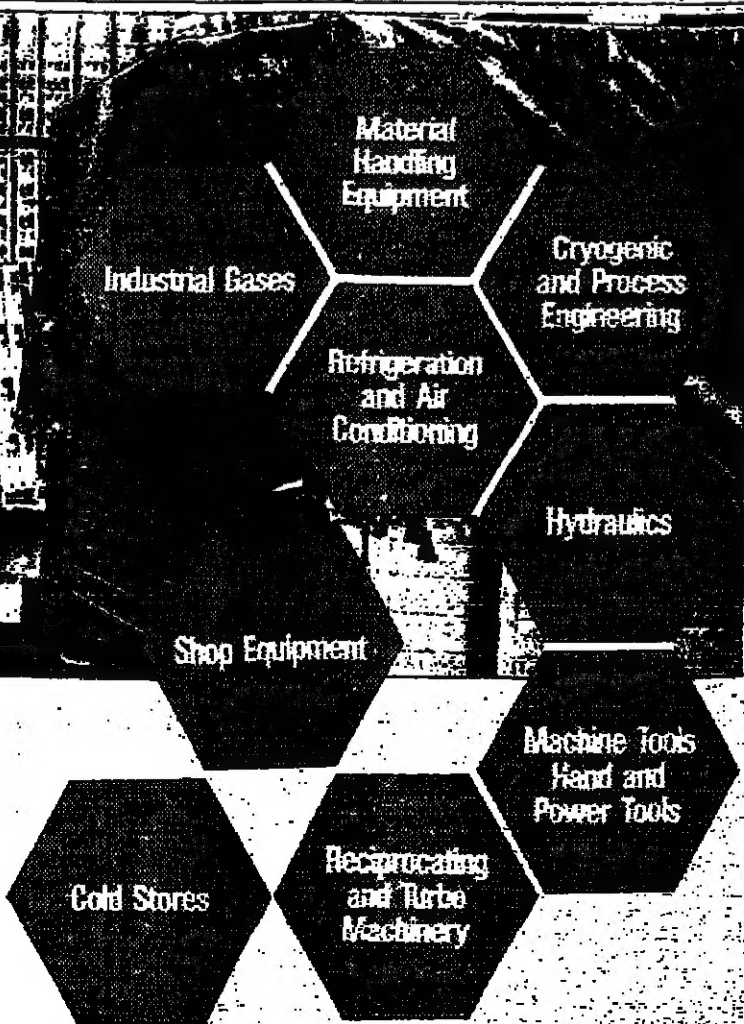
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## EEC visit aims to boost Mexico trade relations

By William Chislett in Mexico City

DR. WILHELM HAERKAMP, the EEC Commissioner for External Affairs, arrives today for a four-day visit in an effort to intensify the fledgling relations between the Common Market and Mexico.

The visit is in line with moves by the EEC for a more coherent strategy towards Latin America as a whole. In the case of Mexico the feeling is that the time is ripe to pursue greater co-operation and trade. The visit to Mexico follows a recent one to Brazil.

The EEC's desire is basically shared by the Mexican Government which wants to diversify exports away from the U.S. and use its rising oil revenue to stimulate non-oil exports.

Mexico does not want to be just an oil-exporting country, and as part of this overall strategy it has recently initiated a "national debate" about the merits of joining the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Mexico has finished its discussions with GATT and has until May 31, 1980, to make up its mind whether to become party to the international tariff regulatory system. The Government is in favour, but has to overcome resistance from Mexico's private sector and trade unions.

Dr. Haerkamp, who is responsible for the EEC's

foreign relations, will meet with President José López Portillo, with Mexico's foreign and trade Ministers, and with the head of Pemex, the State oil monopoly. He will also preside over the closing session of the Mexico-EEC Joint Commission, only the third such meeting since 1975. This, in itself, is an indication of the lack of interest in expanded trade until now on both sides.

Last year 71 per cent of Mexico's exports went to the U.S. and only 5.8 per cent to the EEC, principally coffee, honey, cotton and minerals. In return the U.S. supplied Mexico with 60 per cent of its imports and the EEC with 18.5 per cent, mainly capital goods. Mexico is the EEC's 58th supplier and 42nd client and has always had a deficit with the EEC which has been increasing over the years.

Mexico, like other developing countries, enjoys the EEC's system of generalised preferences. Last year Mexico's trade deficit with the EEC, according to EEC figures, was almost \$1bn, and in the first six months of this year, according to Mexico's Foreign Trade Bank, the deficit with the EEC was \$600m.

Oil is changing the picture to the benefit of Mexico. Next year a contract to sell oil to France begins, and will rise to

a maximum of 100,000 b/d. Spain, which will be an EEC member and is already receiving 60,000 b/d, will receive a further 100,000 b/d.

Oil sales to Western Europe demonstrate how quickly the EEC's interest in Mexico is changing, although as one EEC official said recently, "It is not oil per se which attracts the EEC, but its potential to transform Mexico into an advanced industrialised nation." In addition Mexico is seen as a rich and safe alternative to OPEC—of which it is not a member.

Pemex's declared aim is to reduce the present U.S. share of Mexican oil exports from 85 per cent to 60 per cent and to sell 20 per cent to Europe and 20 per cent to Japan.

However, in the long-term, it will be the effect of Mexico's oil wealth on this fast-developing country of 67m people which will influence trade with the EEC.

For the next decade it is predicted that the Mexican economy will grow by at least 8 per cent a year. This will help turn it into an exceedingly attractive market for the EEC, but at the moment, excluding trade among EEC member countries, Mexico takes a tiny 0.5 per cent of total EEC exports and it supplies the EEC with 0.25 per cent of its import needs.

## Rise in oil imports hits France

By Terry Dodsworth in Paris

FRENCH OIL imports went up by more than 12 per cent in the first nine months of this year despite a slight reduction in the monthly rate in September.

After rising to 11m tonnes in August, imports were down to 9.8m tonnes in the following month. But this figure was still 11 per cent up on imports for the same month a year ago, and brought the nine-monthly total to 95m tonnes.

With the Government committed to an oil conservation policy aimed at limiting consumption to 107.5m tonnes this year, the figures suggest that efforts are concentrating on increasing stocks. Costs to the French oil importers have already risen considerably from FF474 a tonne in the January to September period of 1978 to FF532 a tonne this year. In September, however, France was paying an average FF664 a tonne.

By far the largest amount of these imports came from OPEC countries. This year, about 37 per cent has come from Saudi Arabia, 18 per cent from Iraq and 5 per cent from Iran.

## Brazil fuel deficit rises

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil posted a \$2.99bn (£1.45bn) deficit in its trade with the Middle East oil producing countries during the January-August period this year, up from \$2.08bn during the same period in 1978, the Central Bank reported.

Total Brazilian imports from these nations this year were \$3.3bn, while its exports were listed at \$300.1m. The figures for the same period last year were imports \$2.3bn and exports \$215.1m. AP-DJ

## Sudan re-negotiates debt with export credit agencies

By James Suxton

SUDAN TODAY starts talks in Paris with Western Governments in an effort to obtain the rescheduling of its debts to export credit agencies.

The two day meeting with the so-called Club of Paris, a grouping of export credit agencies from the main OECD countries, is part of Sudan's attempt to refinance all its overdue foreign debt, believed to total more than \$1bn.

The debt consists of overdrafts on bills of exchange, supplier credits and short and medium term loans. An exact profile of Sudan's debt is still being compiled but a substantial part of it is believed to be covered by Western credit agencies, such as Britain's Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), the U.S.

Eximbank and France's Coface. The outcome of the Club of Paris discussions will directly affect the negotiations Sudan has been having with commercial banks over their part of its debt.

Sudan has asked for a refinancing loan of about \$1.2bn on concessionary terms over a three year period to cover its overdue foreign debt and provide some new financing to support the economic reform programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund in May this year. It is in effect asking to be relieved of the burden of repaying and servicing its debt until June 1982.

At the Paris Club meeting the state of the Sudanese economy will be reviewed by the IMF, World Bank and Sudanese Government, before

discussions on the terms of re-scheduling begin. The aim of the meeting is to agree on the outline for a rescheduling programme, which would be followed by bilateral negotiations in succeeding weeks between Sudan and individual credit agencies. Sudan is understood to want to negotiate with ECGD first.

How far the Western countries are prepared to go in meeting Sudan's request is not known, but it is thought unlikely that they will accede to its desire for a three year refinancing at this stage. However, Western Governments look reasonably favourably on Sudan both as a pro-Western nation in a strategic part of Africa and as a country which is now making determined efforts to put its economy in order.

## Higher paper prices forecast

By John Lloyd

CONTINUING price rises in all grades of paper, especially newsprint, were forecast for next year by Mr. Bo Wergens, managing director of the Swedish Pulp and Paper Association, over the weekend.

Mr. Wergens said that profitability throughout the West European paper industry was low, and that prices must at least keep pace with inflation. The industry had a difficult problem ahead, because it was not making sufficient capital investment in new plant.

The Swedish industry has recovered from its very low levels of profitability, or of losses, in 1976-78, a period in which the Government intervened to underwrite loans to

some companies and to buy stock in others.

Mr. Wergens said, however, that "rising costs for wood, energy, transport, etc., have not yet allowed the Swedish—as well as the European industry—to recover fully from the adverse conditions during the long recession."

The Swedish industry, which exported 900,000 tonnes of paper and board to the UK this year, is to press for a 5 per cent increase in its quota this year.

Mr. Wergens said that the quota increase allowed last year was only 1 per cent because of fears of a recession in the market. However, he expected that the present UK Government would take a more

positive view of imports than the previous one.

International demand in the current year has been strong, with production in the U.S. up 5 per cent, and in Western Europe up nearly 7 per cent. The order backlog is high, and production has had difficulty in keeping pace with demand.

The market for white graphical, copy, computer and scholastic papers had grown particularly strongly, Mr. Wergens said.

In the UK, where growth was less strong over this year, imports continue to win a growing share of the market. However, French and German exporters have taken an increasing proportion, while Scandinavian suppliers have stagnated.

## Franco-U.S. approval for new aero-engine

By Michael Donne, Aerospace Correspondent

THE FRANCO-U.S. (Sneema General Electric) CFM-56 engine has now been awarded its official type certificates by the French and U.S. civil aviation authorities, clearing it for airline service.

The official type certificate was handed over in Paris at the weekend by the French Direction Generale de l'Aviation Civile and the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration to Mr. Jean Claude Malroux, president of CFM-International, which builds the engine.

The CFM-56 has already won more than \$600m worth of business from several U.S. and overseas airlines who want to use it to re-engine their existing DC-8 Series 60 jet airliners.

The engine is also now installed in a Boeing 707 jet airliner, with flight trials due to start soon. This is thought likely to lead to extensive sales of the CFM-56 for re-engineing existing Boeing 707 jets also.

The engine, rated at 24,000 pounds thrust, is also a candidate for selection by the U.S. Air Force for re-engineing the big fleet of several hundred aerial tankers, the KC-135s.

Another version of the engine, the 20,100 pounds thrust Dash 3, is also being developed for the new generation of short-to-medium range airlines for the 1980s.

Or Societe Francaise d'Equipements pour la Navigation Aeriennne (SFENA), makers of navigation equipment, have been selected by Boeing to supply 600 emergency visualisation systems for Boeing's 737 and 767 airliners. AP-DJ reports from Paris.

## UK reduces W. German deficit

By Guy Hawtin in Frankfurt

RAPIDLY GROWING sales of North Sea oil are gradually eroding the massive trade deficit Britain is running with West Germany. On the other hand, the deficit in non-oil trade in the Federal Republic's favour is growing alarmingly.

Figures for the first three quarters of 1979 show British sales to West Germany up by just over 39 per cent compared with the same period of last year. They rose from DM 3.76bn to DM 5.21bn (\$6.79bn).

West Germany's trade surplus fell back from DM 3.49bn in

the opening nine months of 1978 to DM 3.32bn in the comparable period of this year. This is a drop of 4.8 per cent.

But when oil shipments are excluded from the returns—supplied by the Federal German Statistical Office in Wiesbaden—British exports show a much less impressive growth rate. They went up by just 26.6 per cent from DM 7.83bn to DM 9.91bn.

In comparison West Germany's sales to the UK, which are virtually all manufactured goods, also showed a 28.6 per cent growth, rising from

DM 12.25bn to DM 15.5bn. The non-oil trade gap, therefore, rose 26.7 per cent from DM 4.43bn to DM 5.6bn.

The West German statistics show that the two countries are becoming increasingly important trade partners. Britain's sales in the Federal Republic have expanded far faster than the overall 18.1 per cent increase in West German imports during the first nine months of the year. Non-oil sales have also greatly outpaced the 16 per cent growth in non-oil imports.

## UK TRADE FAIR PARTICIPATION

### Activity widens despite doubts

By Lorne Barling

THE VALUE of participating in trade fairs and exhibitions is frequently questioned, but with West German companies spending around 25 per cent of their promotion budgets in this way, compared with 10 per cent in the UK, the evidence suggests that they are vital to European marketing.

Although British companies have increased their exhibition spending from only around 2.5 per cent of total promotional budgets in 1975, many still regard exhibiting as an increasingly expensive activity which is necessary only because their absence at major events would be noticed.

However, with the European exhibition circuit booming and the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham now near to capacity for 1980, it appears that it is increasingly cost-effective to bring the potential buyer to the product in this way.

Companies have also had a measure of relief from the pressure to be at every show as a result of recent agreements to reduce or at least restrict the number of exhibitions within particular industries. These have been agreed by trade associations in Europe and the UK.

These trade associations have also acted to restrict the number of unofficial exhibitions taking place by preventing their members from participating in unauthorised events, sometimes held by inexperienced organisers. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, for

example, approves only about six UK shows a year.

The major show organisers, which have received a welcome boost with the success of the National Exhibition Centre, do not wish to appear monopolistic, but more shows mean business is spread more thinly and visitors are, consequently, more difficult to attract.

As far as British shows are concerned, it is regarded as vitally important to encourage

Many British companies are unconvinced about the value of participating in exhibitions, but an increasing number now believe that the international trade fair circuit is the most effective way to bring the potential customer to the product.

more European buyers, and representatives of the Motor Show and Mach 80 (the International Machine Tool Exhibition) were in Amsterdam recently to promote their events taking place next year.

The Motor Show, a major public attraction, has been criticised in the past by trade visitors who feel the business side of it has been downgraded, but next year more exclusive time will be devoted to their activities.

Pressure on the always popular show has also been reduced by the start of two motor equipment exhibitions,

Autoquip and Garagequip, being held in London. These have successfully attracted buyers who do not want the glitter of the Motor Show and can avoid it in this way.

In the machine tool industry, where products sometimes take three to four years to develop, companies have been faced with the problem of providing something new for each event, and with the cycle of exhibitions now every two years instead of four, they have tended to get smaller.

It remains difficult to generalise about the overall level of costs, since they vary greatly according to what is offered, from a bare stand to a full service, but £40 a square metre is now a common cost factor.

The annual International Spring Fair for instance at Birmingham's NEC, dealing with hardware and giftware (such as silver and other craft goods) is nevertheless oversubscribed, with around 300 potential exhibitors having to be turned away.

From the NEC's point of view such enthusiasm is encouraging, since the £41m cost of the centre and an additional £7m now being spent on a seventh hall, is a considerable burden. Most of the funds were provided by the Birmingham City Council.

It is evident, however, that many British companies remain unconvinced about the value of exhibitions, and overall spending is proportionately lower than in most European countries.

## 'We call ourselves "The Light Brigade," Mr Wagstaff...

'...but we charge very little,' said John Graham.

'As you know, when you helped us set up,' said his brother Bill, 'we deliberately kept our designs simple so that we'd have the minimum of production problems. And it's paid off. We've become very competitive, with one of the cheapest quality ranges on the domestic market.'

'So now we want to apply the same principle to industrial and office lighting,' said John. 'We've developed some prototypes that we've shown to a number of architects and builders, and the response has been fantastic. We must show you the correspondence.'

'But we've a long way to go yet,' said Bill, 'we'll have to get new premises, new equipment, more staff—the lot. We've got all our plans and proposals ready, but there are one or two critical financial areas that need your kind of light shed on them, rather than ours!'

'Well in that case,' said Mr Wagstaff, 'why don't we set up a meeting at the bank—or here if you like—and get your accountant, Jack Rogers, along and we'll all have a look at the balance sheet. Then if that's all right and you make sure you keep the domestic side of your "Light Brigade" going at a steady gallop, I should think the bank could be very interested. So here's to a bright future!'



Wagstaff's face lit up.

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## SHIPPING REPORT

### Tramp shipping index up sharply

By William Hall, Shipping Correspondent

THE SCALE of the recent boom in tramp shipping is underlined by the latest figures from the General Council of British Shipping. Last month the council's tramp trip charter index jumped by one-sixth—its sharpest rise for more than a year.

The index is based on the recorded monthly fixtures of five main categories of ships, from 12,000 tonnes to ships of 85,000 dwt and over. The bulk of the fixtures is concentrated among ships of between 12,000 dwt and 35,000 dwt.

In October, the index (1978=100) stood at 214—about 75 per cent above its level of a year ago.

The council said the rise was almost entirely due to demand for tonnage to ship grain to the Soviet Union. This point is emphasised by the latest Matheson Chartering Report. It says that countries such as the Soviet Union with serious harvest shortfalls are bringing in as much grain as possible

before the winter weather worsens. Matheson predicts that the current demand will continue through November but may ease after that, especially in the Western Hemisphere.

The upturn in tramp shipping rates has not been uniform. According to the council's figures, rates for ships in the 12,000-19,999 dwt category have risen by 46 per cent in the last year. Rates for ships of 20,000-34,999 dwt have risen by 79 per

cent. For ships of 35,000-49,999 dwt, rates have risen by 135 per cent. This is double the increase for ships in the 50,000-84,999 dwt category.

In the tanker market, the events in Iran have been the major talking point, but the implications are still unclear. The benchmark figure for Very Large Crude carriers, Persian Gulf/West continues to hover around Worldscale 80.

## World Economic Indicators

### FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES

(Millions of U.S. \$)

	Sept. 79	Aug. 79	July 79	Sept. 78
UK	18,724	19,083	19,159	15,846
U.S.	3,301	4,798	4,843	26
Germany	46,911	47,072	43,245	35,932
Italy	17,864	17,619	17,619	9,817
Holland	6,493	6,431	6,400	4,037
Japan	21,247	21,331	21,040	26,607
Belgium	4,489	4,435	4,399	7,489
France	14,408	14,570	14,530	7,584

Source: International Monetary Fund



## UK NEWS

## Foreign currency banking for all

BY DAVID MARSH

THE ABOLITION of exchange controls last month has brought foreign currency banking within range of the public.

National Westminster Bank announced on Thursday that it was offering UK residents accounts in more than a dozen currencies without formalities.

Non-interest bearing current accounts can be opened with a minimum balance of £250 equivalent. New customers can open accounts on the spot at NatWest branches if adequate references are given.

The NatWest announcement

stole a march on the other High Street clearers. But all the big banks had been offering foreign currency banking to private customers after the abolition of exchange restrictions.

Lloyds is allowing branches to open accounts in the main foreign currencies. If the opening balance is at least £500 equivalent.

Barclays and Midland branch managers will open accounts for private customers on request, with terms depending on the currency and amount.

NatWest says many accounts

for commercial customers have been opened since the exchange control moves last month.

Previously, Bank of England approval was needed for UK residents to hold foreign currency accounts, although this had been granted for trading purposes for companies.

NatWest customers can open deposit accounts in the range of £1,000 to £15,000 with maturities of seven days to six months. Lloyds is setting a minimum amount for deposit accounts of £2,500.

The banks neither want to

encourage nor expect a flood of foreign currency accounts from Britons saving up the odd D-Mark for that long-awaited cruise up the Rhine, or bringing home pocketfuls of pesetas from Costa Brava holidays.

As for suggestions that private customers worried by the possibility of a hard winter and rising sterling M3, would open accounts in Swiss francs to compensate for a falling pound, Lloyds said this would not be worthwhile.

Commission charges for converting sterling into foreign

currency in the first place were so high, that the pound would really have to fall through the floor to make the exercise profitable.

There would also be no advantage for people wanting to evade the Inland Revenue. Foreign currency deposits in the UK would enjoy no special privacy.

For the professional tax evader or currency speculator, clearly the Bahnhofstrasse in Zurich, rather than the High Street in Cheam, is the place to be.

## European banks 'may extend U.S. activity'

BY MICHAEL LAFFERTY

WEST EUROPEAN banks may soon seek to enter the U.S. financial services market in activities such as travel and entertaining, says a study by the Payment Systems (PSI) organisation in the U.S. PSI believes that the Eurocheque and Eurocard banking clubs can form the basis for such a development.

"Eurocheque banks are negotiating with Midland Bank to acquire the non-sterling travellers' cheque business of (Thomas) Cook from Midland."

"This fact suggests that the Eurocheque banks may in fact enter the U.S. market place to compete for the dollar-denominated travellers' cheque business of U.S. travellers in Europe as well as European travellers visiting the United States."

"It is also likely that some of these banks will engage in (plastic) card-based competition for various retail services in the United States."

PSI forecasts that the most significant impact from foreign banks in the U.S. will be liberalisation of the McFadden

Act, which restricts banks from interstate branching.

"When inter-state branching is permitted, foreign branches and banks will not be the only, or even the greatest beneficiaries. The big winners will most likely be the large, aggressive U.S. banks."

"These banks will no doubt utilise relaxed restrictions to compete more aggressively. They will attempt to establish a national retail-services delivery system, probably an electronic one."

The numbers of U.S. banking offices and subsidiaries controlled by foreign interests tripled between 1972 and 1978 from 104 to 332. The U.S. General Accounting Office recently reported that foreign banking interests controlled over 8 per cent of all U.S. banking assets.

PSI says that rates of growth and acquisitions in the U.S. will slow markedly compared with recent trends.

"Foreign Banks: A New Competitive Force in the U.S." PSI, Atlanta, Georgia.

## MG's future discussed in BL talks

By Kenneth Gooding, Motor Industry Correspondent

TALKS BEGIN today between BL and the British consortium which wants to buy its MG business.

This will be the first of several meetings but Mr. Alan Curtis, joint-chairman of Aston Martin and leader of the consortium, said at the weekend: "There is good will on both sides and we are hopeful of a successful outcome."

However, a wide gulf seems to exist between what the consortium wants and what BL has publicly stated it would accept.

The consortium wishes to buy the MG plant at Abingdon and take over responsibility for the 1,500 employees. It also wants the MG name.

BL appears interested in only a licensing deal for the production of the MGB sports car after the scheduled ending of production late in 1980.

Abingdon, with a much-reduced workforce, has a key role in BL's re-structuring of car production plants

## Most social security benefits increase

BY ERIC SHORT

RETIREMENT AND widows' pensions, sickness and unemployment benefits and most other social security benefits increase this week in accordance with the annual revaluation of benefits required by Social Security Act, 1975.

The weekly pension for a single person rises to £23.30 from £19.50, while the new rate for married couples is £37.30 compared with £31.20.

Sickness and unemployment benefits, previously £15.75 for a single person and £25.50 for a married couple will be £18.50 and £29.95 respectively.

The pension increases were announced by Sir Geoffrey Howe in his Budget speech on June 12 and the other increases the next day by Mr. Patrick Jenkin, the Social Services Secretary.

The significant omission has been an increase in child benefit allowances. This remains at £4 per week for each child. However, for single parent families the weekly rate for the first child rises by 50p to £6.50.

The present pension levels

are being increased by 19½ per cent. This represents an expected increase in prices of 17½ per cent, the other 2 per cent rise representing the shortfall in the pension upratings in November last year because the earnings movement was underestimated.

Short-term benefits are being raised by 17½ per cent—the expected rate of prices inflation. This uprating is not a subject of controversy. Also pensioners who have retired since April, and thus are receiving a small amount of second tier earnings-related pension under the new state scheme will find that pension uprated by 17½ per cent.

Pensioners will also receive a Christmas bonus of £10 this year. This is a legal benefit, and not a grace and favour payment of the Government.

The level will be reviewed each year by the Secretary of State.

The Government still ignores any uprating to the death grant. This has remained at £30 since 1962. The pensioner organisations are demanding at least

£135.

## Airline food unspeakable says Ronay guide

BY ARTHUR SANDLES

LIFE IN the skies for the average traveller is no picnic if the latest Egon Ronay Lucas Guide is to be believed. According to Mr. Ronay, whose inspectors did 43 transatlantic journeys in the course of a study of conditions for airline passengers "the lot of the air passenger is a dismal one."

As far as food is concerned, Mr. Ronay reckons that "only the truly captive situation of the passengers explains how airlines can get away with serving unadorned rubbish. Contempt for the passenger here is the only conceivable reason for hanging on to the basic misconception of what should be served."

Whatever the glossy advertisements suggest, in Mr. Ronay's view the tourist class passengers will find in fact that they are taken for granted and, on the whole, treated with contempt by most airlines."

Ronay's listing of the Atlantic airlines rates America's Delta as the best, scoring 77 per cent on the Ronay rating. Delta flies to Atlanta, Georgia. The top airline for flights into New York was TWA, which came third in the listing overall, after Air Canada.

The league table, in Ronay's order was: 1-Delta; 2-Air Canada; 3-TWA; 4-British Caledonian; 5-National; 6-Air India; 7-British Airways; 8-Branniff; 9-Aer Lingus; 10-Laker; 11-Northeast Orient; 12-Pan American; 13-Iran Air; 14-El Al.

Mr. Ronay says the airline passengers of today are "herded like cattle kept uninformed during frequent delays, racked tight in their seats and reduced to cyphers and dehumanized. Fed unspeakable food and often ignored by flight staff, they are heavily over-charged into the bargain, as Sir Freddie Laker has proved."

The whole thing starts off badly, says the Ronay report. "Welcome is scant and insincere, with perfunctory smiles and as often as not just a military pointer to the correct aisle to take. Call buttons might as well be ripped out. They are totally ignored. Flight attendants are pre-occupied with their own pursuits once meal service is finished."

It is not only the food that brings comment from the Ronay organisation. Worse still is "the scandalous state of the lavatories." It is suggested that most airlines simply do not arrange for constant attention to lavatories. "Could this be below the dignity of the glamour girls?" asks Mr. Ronay.

"Our experience of fifth and discarded bits and pieces does not bear description," says the report. "Even the general state of repair is often poor. It is no excuse that passengers are also to blame for behaving so antisocially."

BA criticised

Of individual airlines Mr. Ronay says that British Airways served food that was sadly unenterprising. "Tasteless chicken in a nondescript sauce with the usual flavourless frozen vegetables, followed by a flabby slice of fruit pie, shrink-wrapped cheddar and biscuits, and in different coffee. On one flight a farcically pretentious Elizabethan menu heralded one of the worst air meals ever eaten."

Although it received a higher rating, the food on British Caledonian comes in for similar savage comment. "Tired smoked salmon, lamb swamped in horrid gravy with roast (i.e. burnt) potatoes and peas like tasteless nasturtium seeds was followed by sickly fruit pie." But the report adds that drinks were served with admirable promptness on all the British Caledonian flights sampled.

But the food served by Delta—a steak, a mixed grill, and a kebab—on sampled flights—was gratefully served and simple, the report says.

The airlines lowest on the Ronay list draw particularly harsh criticism. El Al staff are said by Ronay to have been "tired, unenthusiastic, indifferent and undisciplined," although there were also two redeeming individuals. "On one flight two stewardesses took no notice of a call button that was lit up for half an hour—they were keen to be busy relaxing."

The Ronay report says that Laker Skytrain cabin staff worked hard to create a relaxed atmosphere. Lavatories were generally well maintained.

Restaurants in Great Britain and Ireland, form the main theme of the annual Ronay Guide. The Gold Plate Award for the guide's Restaurant of the Year goes to Les Quat' Saisons, an Oxford bistro run by a Frenchman and his English wife.

The Gold Plate for the hotel of the year has been awarded to the Connaught in London in recognition of "its legendary standards."

Only two restaurants have the three-star award for cooking: Inverlochy Castle's restaurant, Fort William and the Horn of Plenty, Gulgworthy, Devon. The five de luxe grade hotels now include the Chewton Glen and the recently opened Royal Crescent in Bath.

The guide also looks at New York's 22 top hotels but gives the de luxe category to only three, compared with the ten in this division in London. The highest-rated is the Pierre which is owned by a British company, Trusthouse Forte.

Egon Ronay's Lucas Guide 1980. Published by Penguin. Price £4.75.

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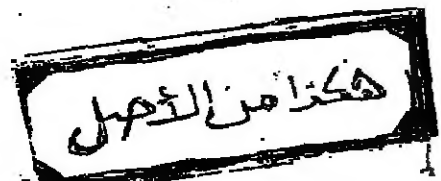


Pan Am's Daily Schedule to America.

From London to	Leave	Arrive	Notes
Detroit	1100	1655	
Honolulu*	1325	2350	
Houston	1400	2135	
Los Angeles	1325	1630	
New York	1100	1335	
	1400	1635	
San Francisco	1210	1510	Wed/Fri/Sun
	1210	1735	Mon/Tue/Thu/Sat
Washington	1440	1800	
Also: Seattle	1210	1350	Mon/Tue/Thu/Sat

\*Connection via Los Angeles

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## Pessimistic tone shown by brokers

By Peter Riddell, Economics Correspondent

THE INCREASING pessimism of the City about the short-term outlook for the economy was highlighted in a batch of stock-brokers' circulars published at the weekend.

L. Messel, for example, said Bank of England could not afford to be dilatory because of the unreliability of the British system of selling Government debt and a possible unstable deterioration in investor confidence. "Minimum Lending Rate has to be raised and 16 per cent (against the present 14 per cent) is probably the right number."

Montagu, Loeb, Stanley said interest rates were the principal short-term instrument available. "Simply to move in line with market rates would probably not have a sufficient impact on market sentiment and therefore a two-point increase in MLR to 16 per cent is expected."

The brokers said that such a sudden move in MLR could turn out to be an over-reaction.

Carr Seabag said that a serious collapse of confidence had taken place. "This has less to do with policy errors by the present Government than the fact that the City has sold itself a wildly over-optimistic set of expectations on monetary growth, inflation and interest rates."

## Post Office expects Prestel expansion

BY JOHN LLOYD

PRESTEL, the Post Office's videodata system, has ended its first six months' public availability in better shape than seemed likely at the beginning of the period, and appears set for major expansion in the New Year.

Its user base, 1,600 subscribers, is still very small. Manufacturers of Prestel sets continue to report shortages in components.

The 160 information-providers have grumbled about insufficient revenue and difficulties in updating their information because of shortage of access time to Post Office computers.

It now appears that the UK set manufacturers are committed to the project—there was some doubt earlier this year—and most have plans to go into volume production next year.

The corporation forecasts a market of about 100,000 prestel sets in 1980, equally split between domestic and business use. The service will be extended to Birmingham next month, and Manchester and Edinburgh next year.

Last week Sony UK announced that it would be the first Japanese company to enter Prestel production. The Post Office guaranteed that it would not allow foreign set-makers into the market for the first six months, now expired. Sony UK is registered in Britain.

It has designed two small

colour business terminals with an editing facility, and plans to introduce a large-screen domestic receiver next year. The set has been designed at the company's Bridgend works, in Wales.

A second Japanese manufacturer, Mitsubishi, has teamed up with a UK company, Information Services and Equipment, to market business terminals and a projected display system. Mitsubishi has a plant at Haddington, near Edinburgh.

## Aquis payment for ex-chief

Aquis Securities, the property investment and property developer with hotel interests, is to hold an extraordinary general meeting on November 29 to gain approval for an ex-gratia payment of £27,500 to Mr. Harold Quinman, who has recently relinquished his post as managing director.

In August Aquis said that Mr. Quinman had for some time expressed the desire to be relieved of day-to-day management of business. The group applied Mr. John Bateman to take over as managing director.

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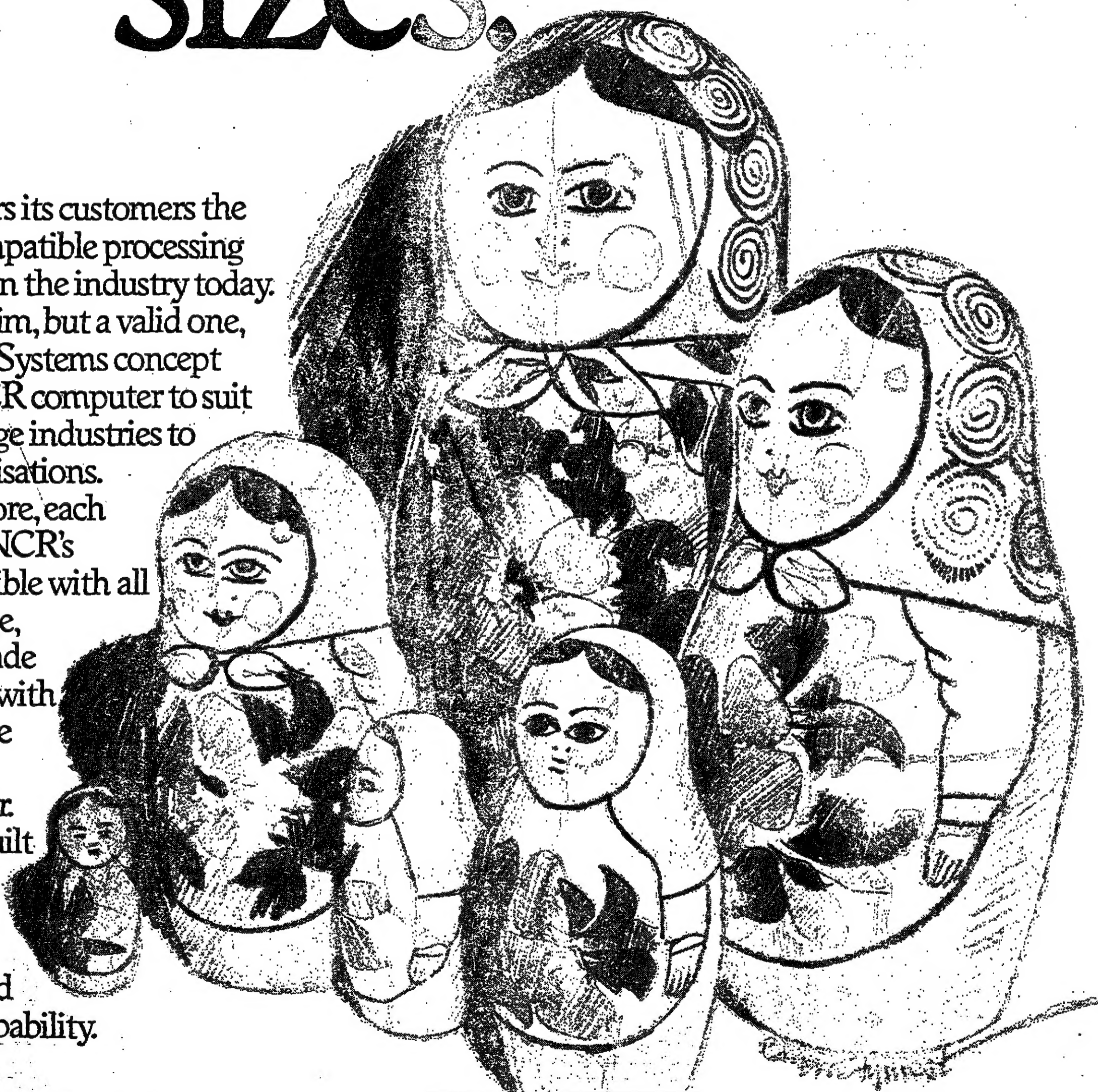
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## UK NEWS

# New orders in building industry slow

BY ANDREW TAYLOR

A GRADUAL slowing in the rate of new orders for two of the recent growth sectors for the building industry is indicated in the quarterly state of trade inquiry by the National Federation of Building Trades Employers.

The September survey showed fewer companies reporting increased new order inquiries in the private industrial and commercial building and repair and maintenance sectors, which have sustained the building industry's recovery over the past 18 months.

In private industrial and commercial building 31 per cent of companies surveyed reported more inquiries, compared with 38 per cent in the previous quarter. They stayed at about the same level in 40 per cent.

In repair and maintenance 29 per cent reported increased order inquiries, against 39 per cent in the previous survey, and 51 per cent said that inquiry levels were unchanged.

Despite slackening in rate of new orders in these two sectors, over half the 700 companies surveyed said that they

were working at full capacity, or almost.

The federation said that 45 per cent still expected an increased volume of work this year, and 19 per cent expected a decrease.

Taking all types of building work, the survey showed that 29 per cent of companies reported order inquiry increases in September (42 per cent in June); 44 per cent (38 per cent) said that inquiries were the same; and 28 per cent (21 per cent) reported a decrease.

The federation said: "This means that the ratio between firms reporting more and firms reporting less new inquiries has almost halved between the June and September inquiries."

The federation said that companies had continued to report severe shortage of skilled labour, with over half those questioned finding it "very difficult or virtually impossible to obtain enough bricklayers, while the same applies to around one-third of firms seeking carpenters, plumbers, plasterers and slaters-tilers."

Only a few isolated shortages were reported in materials.

# Thatcher to discuss EEC with Giscard

BY PHILIP RAWSTORNE

MRS. MARGARET THATCHER will pursue her determined bid to secure a substantial reduction in Britain's contribution to the EEC budget at a meeting this week with President Giscard d'Estaing.

The Prime Minister is still robustly demanding that Britain's £1.2bn net contribution should be eliminated. She is expected to reaffirm the Government's objective in her foreign affairs address at the Guildhall tonight.

The French President arrives in London today for two days' talks—the last in Mrs. Thatcher's series of bilateral meetings with EEC leaders before the critical Dublin summit at the end of the month.

Their talks will have a vital bearing on the course of the summit negotiations.

But indications so far are that other EEC members are unlikely to concede more than a £650m cut in the contribution along the lines suggested by one option prepared by the EEC Commission.

Pressures

Several Common Market countries will not yield even that much—regarded by the British Government as minimal—without some very tough bargaining.

There will be strong pressures for Britain to accept a reduction of around £500m, a compromise on which range from £250m-£650m.

Such a move would involve a relatively simple adjustment to the financial mechanism established in 1976 to prevent excessive budget strains on the poorer EEC countries.

Any Government retreat on the issue would be strongly attacked by the Labour Party.

Mr. Peter Shore, the party's foreign affairs spokesman, said at the weekend that Mrs. Thatcher's pursuit of a new budget deal had the "total backing" of the Opposition and the great majority of the British people.

# Hearings open today over cheap flights to Hong Kong

BY MICHAEL DOWNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

MAJOR improvements in the quality of air services between London and Hong Kong, including substantially cheaper fares, are promised by British Caledonian Airways if it is given rights to run such services.

The Hong Kong Air Transport Licensing Authority today starts public hearings in Hong Kong on applications by British Caledonian, Cathay Pacific Airways and Laker Airways for rights to fly new cheap services between Hong Kong and London.

Similar public hearings will be held later by the UK Civil Aviation Authority.

In its evidence to the Hong Kong hearing, British Caledonian will pledge that it will offer a comprehensive, multi-class service, with fares ranging upwards of £100 single.

British Caledonian says that it will offer the widest possible choice of passenger amenities, including first-class sleeperettes, to one-way, stand-by fares on fast, one-stop services via the Middle East.

The airline says that seven fares will be available (at mid-1980 prices), as follows: First class, £890 single; Executive, £500 single; Economy standard, £350 single; "Bottom Dollar," with 21 days advance purchase, £175 single (peak) and £150 (off-peak); and "11th Hour Standby," £115 single (peak), and £100 (off-peak).

British Caledonian claims that these fares are all below the cheapest fares offered by British Airways at present.

British Caledonian's case will be presented to the Hong Kong

authorities by Mr. Leonard Bebbick, a director of Caledonian Airways, the parent company of British Caledonian.

In addition to its Hong Kong application, British Caledonian has applied to the UK Civil Aviation Authority for route licences to serve St. Louis, Denver and New Orleans in the U.S.; Mexico City, and Salisbury in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia.

It also has an application before the CAA for 20 additional European routes from London Gatwick.

Sir Freddie Laker, chairman

## MORE HOME NEWS ON PAGES 14 AND 25

of Laker Airways is planning Hong Kong as the eastern pivot of a Skytrain route linking London, Hong Kong and Los Angeles.

He already operates between London and Los Angeles, and if he gets the go-ahead for the London-Hong Kong sector, he will then apply for the dormant Hong Kong-Los Angeles route to complete the circle.

Cathay Pacific, the British-owned Hong Kong-based airline, plans a fast one-stop service with Boeing 747 Jumbo jets, initially flying three services a week from Gatwick Airport.

Cathay Pacific's lowest fare would be an advanced booking midweek budget price of £136. It claims: "As Hong Kong's own airline we have a rightful claim to provide a reciprocal service to that offered by British Airways."

# 'No Welsh' move defended

THE GOVERNMENT decision to drop its Queen's Speech commitment to establish a Welsh-language service on the fourth channel was defended by Mr. Nicholas Edwards, the Welsh Secretary, at the weekend. He said the initial consensus for putting the BBC and ITV Welsh-language output on the fourth channel, due in autumn 1982, would soon disappear if people were deprived of seeing a major part of the new channel.

# Air passengers to pay double for security

THE SECURITY levy imposed on passengers at 28 British airports is expected to be nearly doubled next spring from the present 85p to £1.68.

The annual cost of providing security at UK airports has risen dramatically in the past year, and is now running at an annual cost of well over £25m.

As a result, the Department of Trade has felt obliged to raise the amount levied on each passenger.

# Move to buy State docks at Falmouth

A BID to take over Falmouth Docks from British Shipbuilders is likely to be made by Britain's biggest privately-owned shipbuilders.

Mr. Christopher Bailey, chairman of the Cardiff company Bristol Channel Shipbuilders, and 17 of his executives completed a three-day inspection of the repair facilities at Falmouth yesterday.

He said that provided he could get "full co-operation" from British Shipbuilders about running the yard, he would be able to make an offer "which no commercial organisation could sensibly refuse."

"We could even be operating the Falmouth shipyard before the end of this year."

With "the further co-operation of the labour force and the people of Falmouth" his company could very considerably increase the present workforce at the yard.

In June more than 1,000 men were made redundant at Falmouth. Mr. Bailey said that the present shipyard team totalled no more than 80, plus 50 staff.

# Workforce takes pay cut to save company

By Lisa Wood

MORE THAN £3.5m is to be injected into a power brake manufacturer by its U.S. parent company after employees agreed to a pay cut of about 10 per cent.

Clayton Dewandre, of Lincoln, part of the American Standard Group, was threatened with run-down and possible closure unless the 1,600 workforce accepted a pay cut of about £11 a week.

About 200 planned redundancies will also go ahead at the plant. The company was reluctant to say whether the new investment would create jobs but said it would mean a more stable working situation.

The company said the pay cut was necessary because an incentive scheme had "got out of hand" and earnings and production had drawn apart.

The parent company is to start a £3.5m investment at the Lincoln factory to be phased over two to three years.

Clayton Dewandre, which was taken over by the Standard Group in 1977, was unprofitable last year and the new investment and new earnings structure is intended to make it more competitive.

# Rates rises over 20% expected

BY MAURICE SAMUELSON

LOCAL authorities are expected to raise rates by more than 20 per cent next year, in spite of Government efforts to keep increases at a far lower level.

On Friday, Mr. Michael Heseltine, Environment Secretary, is to announce the level of the rate support grant for 1980-81. Central government subsidises local authority expenditure by means of the grant.

It is still unclear whether the grant will be kept at this year's level of 61 per cent of expenditure or whether it will be trimmed by another one or two per cent—such a trimming would be equivalent to raising rates by another three to six per cent.

In addition, the Government is expected to set much tighter cash limits than local authorities feel is necessary. While borough treasurers are fore-

casting increased inflation for pay and prices of 15-17 per cent next year, the Government is setting a lower level of between 12½ per cent and 13 per cent.

According to the Environment Department, local authorities' spending in 1980-81 will be just over £17bn. If the rate support grant remained at this year's 61 per cent level, the authorities would receive £10.6bn through the rate support grant.

However, with the authorities themselves forecasting total expenditure at £18bn to £19bn, this is much less than they need to take care of pay and price inflation.

Should local government spending be in line with their own higher forecasts, this means that rates would have to be raised by 24 per cent, in contrast with the Government's estimate of about 10 per cent.

# Recovery begins in retail sales after three years

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

RETAIL SALES in shops have been recovering this year, but not enough to offset the decline of the last three years, says a report by ICC Business Rates.

The report, on financial performance of 98 leading retail companies in the three years to October 1978, compared growth in various sectors sales in the period with that in 1975-76.

There was an overall slowing of growth from 32 per cent in 1975-76 to 18.7 per cent in the subsequent two years.

Electrical goods retailers achieved the highest overall sales growth, largely as a result of the jump in sales by Dixons Photographic group from £28m to £183m.

Among individual companies the biggest growth in turnover was in decorating and furnishing. Times Furnishings sales rose by 67 per cent; Harris Carpets, 58 per cent; and MFI Furniture Centres, 46 per cent. High Street Trading, ICC Business Rates Report, 61, City Rd., EC1; £50.

# in a less taxing situation

Methodist Homes for the Aged acknowledge with gratitude the generosity of those who have shared with MHA a part of their personal benefit from the reduction of income tax. MHA has a big and costly caring programme for the 80's; extensions to some of the present thirty-five residential Homes; building flats and sheltered housing for the elderly who wish to look after themselves for as long as possible.

Will you, too, please support this enterprise with a generous gift, if possible by Covenant? Lower rates of tax increase the need for Covenants. Please complete and post this form now. Thank you.

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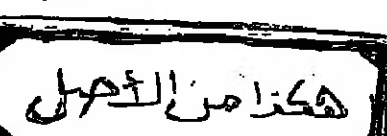
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# Our Welcome to the JAMAHIRIYA\*

## Libyan Arab Airlines,

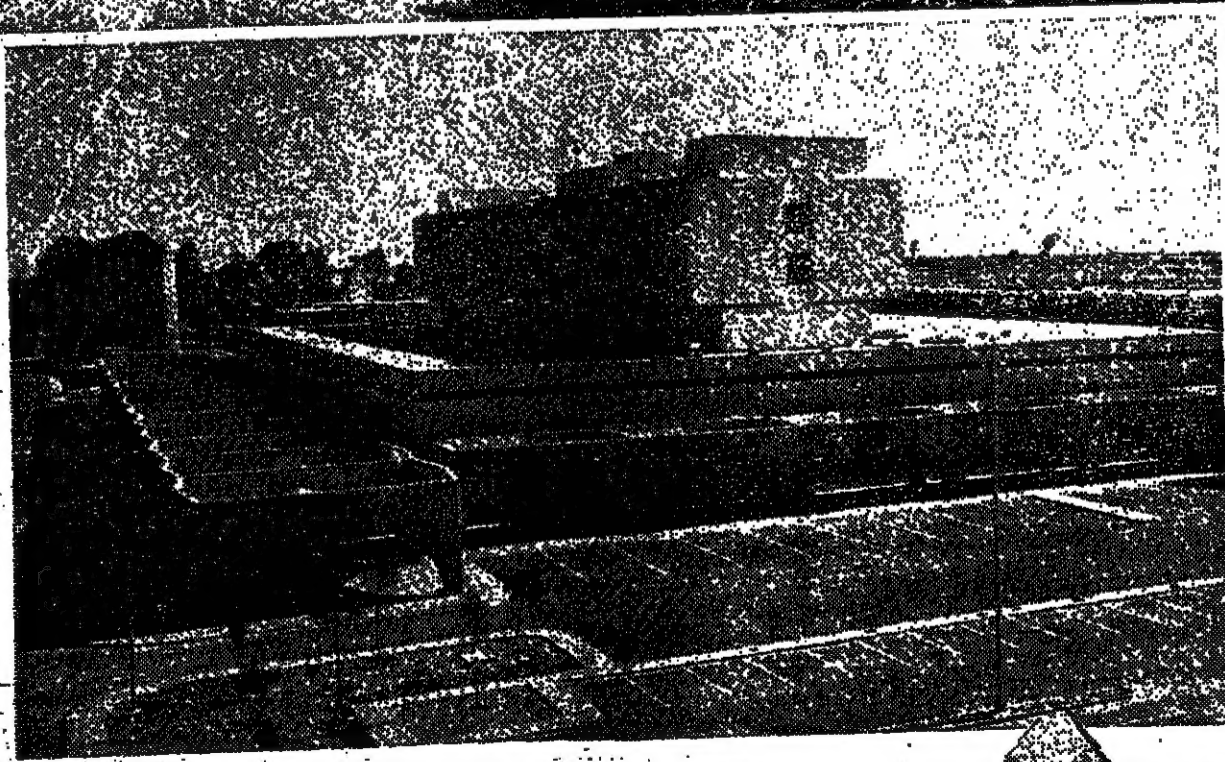
with its continuously developing route system, is very conscious of the need to back expansion in the air with top class facilities on the ground.

As well as the desire to provide passengers with a first rate Airline service, this striving for the highest standards is part of the revolutionary spirit of the Jamahiriya—something we aim to see reflected in everything we do.

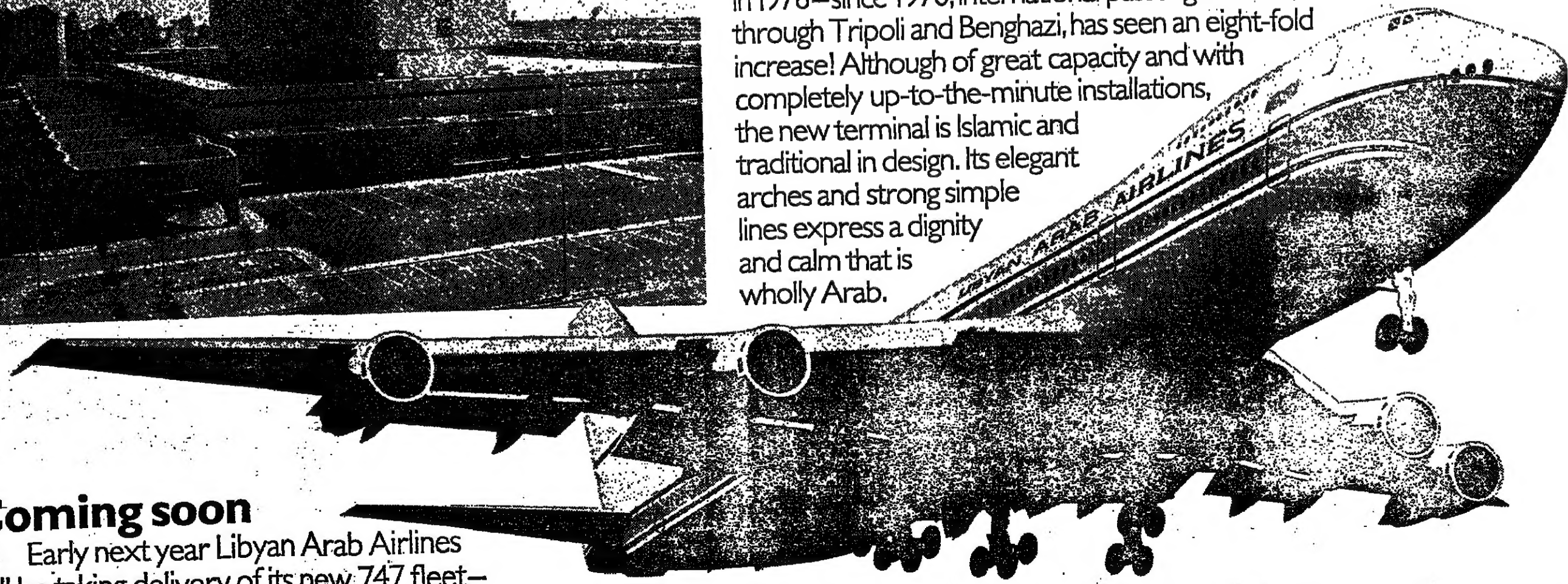
There's no better example of this than our new airport at Tripoli.

Here, you meet us on our home ground. It's where we welcome you to the Jamahiriya.

We're proud of our Airport, one of the most advanced in the world, and we'd like to take this opportunity to show you round...



The new terminal at Tripoli Airport was opened in 1978—since 1970, international passenger traffic, through Tripoli and Benghazi, has seen an eight-fold increase! Although of great capacity and with completely up-to-the-minute installations, the new terminal is Islamic and traditional in design. Its elegant arches and strong simple lines express a dignity and calm that is wholly Arab.



## Coming soon

Early next year Libyan Arab Airlines will be taking delivery of its new 747 fleet—three aircraft in all—another dramatic leap forward in the airlines policy of continuous expansion. Following, as it does, so closely on the tenth Anniversary of the Revolution, this adds a potent affirmation of all that has happened since September 1st 1969, and carries forward the surge of development that will take the Jamahiriya into the eighties.

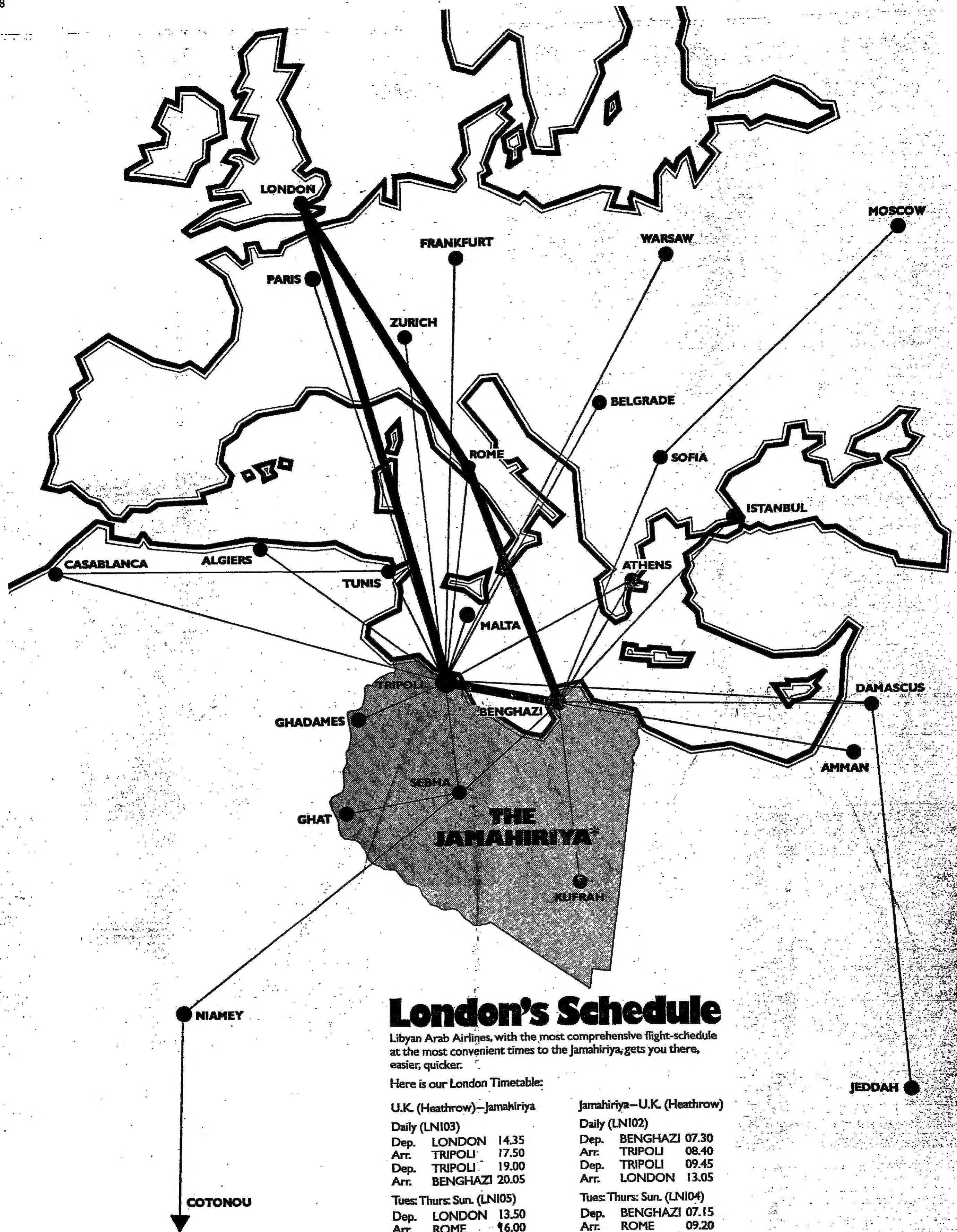


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## London's Schedule

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Daily (LNI03)

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Arr.	TRIPOLI	17.50
Dep.	TRIPOLI	19.00
Arr.	BENGHAZI	20.05

Tues: Thurs: Sun. (LNI05)

Dep.	LONDON	13.50
Arr.	ROME	16.00
Dep.	ROME	17.00
Arr.	BENGHAZI	19.00

Jamahiriya—U.K. (Heathrow)

Daily (LNI02)

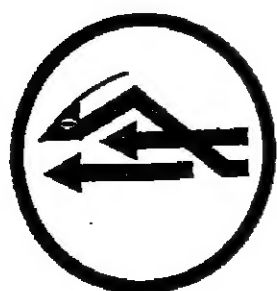
Dep.	BENGHAZI	07.30
Arr.	TRIPOLI	08.40
Dep.	TRIPOLI	09.45
Arr.	LONDON	13.05

Tues: Thurs: Sun. (LNI04)

Dep.	BENGHAZI	07.15
Arr.	ROME	09.20
Dep.	ROME	10.10
Arr.	LONDON	12.25

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## Murray warns against 'hysteria' over cuts

BY OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

A SERIES of "genuine dilemmas" which the trade union movement must resolve within its own ranks was identified by Mr. Len Murray, TUC general secretary, at the weekend.

He told a TUC rally in Newcastle that the trade union movement must resolutely oppose "the heartlessness and the class bias" of the Government's cuts in education, housing and the health service. But, continued Mr. Murray, trade unionists must avoid reacting hysterically.

Emotional spasms were no substitute for clear thinking and opportunism was no excuse for not getting priorities right. It was necessary to think

through the genuine dilemmas that faced the movement. "We must find a way of reaching agreement on how we get the right balance in the use of resources between our productive industries and the public services and how we get agreement on priorities in public spending. We need to think through the roles of direct and indirect taxation and the taxation of wealth."

While the trade union movement rejected the Government's attack on the nationalised industries, there were problems in that area such as the right financing basis, pricing policy and the role of subsidies.

It was also necessary to tackle "the real problems of industrial relations and trade union structure that we all know exist."

These included: developing adequate procedures and sticking to them; improving inter-union co-operation; ensuring that unions never used the strike weapon against each other in inter-union disputes; and getting the right balance between low pay and proper differentials.

"All these are difficult and complex problems. They will not go away if we ignore them. They are not susceptible to easy answers. But the society of which we are an integral part will rightly insist on knowing what our answers are and knowing where we stand."

The answers do not lie in new legal entanglements. They can only be found through hard thinking and given substance by acts of collective will."

## Stewards meet on halt to investment

BY RAY PERMAN, SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

SHOP STEWARDS at Caterpillar Tractors, Uddingston, Lanarkshire, are to meet today to consider the implications of a management decision to cancel a £10m investment.

The company said on Friday that the next model in the successful D8 range of earth-moving machines, the D8L, would be produced at its U.S. plant at Peoria, Illinois, rather than in Scotland as planned.

Between £2m and £3m has already been spent preparing the Uddingston plant for the new tractor, a replacement for the present D8K model, which is to be phased out from the end of 1980.

The local management said the workforce of 2,500 would not be affected by the decision, and it was hoped that a new model from the Caterpillar range would be secured for manufacture in Scotland. It had been decided to pre-

duce the D8L in the U.S. because of the larger home market there. However, shop stewards were concerned about the announcement, particularly in view of the contraction in other parts of the Scottish engineering industry. Massey Ferguson announced on Friday that it is to close its combine harvester plant at Kilmarnock with the loss of 1,500 jobs.

Mr. Hugh Grant, shop stewards' convenor at Caterpillar, said that the decision seemed like another example of an American multinational withdrawing from overseas production and concentrating on home plants.

Stewards were extremely worried and had asked full-time union officials to take up the matter. The priority would be to try to find out what the company would do to keep the plant operating at full capacity.

## Times 'who does what' talks go on

By Alan Pike  
Labour Correspondent

FURTHER efforts were made yesterday to resolve the demarcation dispute which has broken out between two Times Newspapers unions on the eve of republication of the company's suspended newspapers.

Feeling last night was that the dispute, over the control of counter-stacker machines which stack newspapers as they come off the printing presses, would not interfere with tomorrow's planned republication of The Times.

Officials of the National Graphical Association and the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel met yesterday in an attempt to decide whose members should control the flow of papers into the machines.

### Warning

Union officials and management accept that in the early days of republication there may be other sectional disputes arising out of new agreements.

Republication of The Times will come after an absence of almost a year. The management suspended publication on November 30, 1979, after failing to obtain union agreement on industrial relations reforms.

Republication of The Times' sister paper, the Sunday Times, is due next Sunday.

## Pay Commission methods 'likely to disrupt' job market

BY OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

THE CLEGG Commission on pay comparability is criticised for being "likely to play a disruptive role" in the labour market in the latest issue of the National Westminster Bank Quarterly Review published today.

Mr. Michael Beenstock and Mr. Harold Immanuel of the London Business School argue in a review article that the Clegg Commission's bases for comparison are not well conceived.

"If it is to enjoy a constructive future the focus on comparability for its own sake should be abandoned in favour of an appropriate market analysis for public sector pay."

The authors outline a possible methodology for calculating the impact of market forces in con-

trast to the Clegg approach of national job evaluation.

In its first report the commission recommended various relative pay increases for groups of manual workers. Tentative conclusions by the authors based on the market approach seem to confirm the recommended pay increases for school-bus drivers, dustmen and ambulancemen, although not necessarily the relative size of the rises. The market approach would disagree with the awards for road sweepers, hospital porters and ward orderlies.

The NatWest review also contains articles on the British National Oil Corporation, on paying for health care, on the changing role of women in the British economy, on Spain, and on central bank functions in less developed countries.

## Sleeping BL workers face action

NIGHT WORKERS at a British Leyland paint shop who were found to be asleep during a spot check may face disciplinary action for an alleged breach of safety regulations.

The 14 men in Block 38A at the Range Rover plant in Solihull, Birmingham, devised a method of completing their workload halfway through their

shift so they could spend the remainder of the time asleep. BL said yesterday that in doing so they had broken safety regulations.

Management made a spot check at 4 am on Friday when most of the workers were found sleeping in the locker room. The conveyor track was switched off.

The men are expected to be

called before the management today. They will be given the opportunity of having representatives of the Transport and General Workers' Union present at the hearing. Disciplinary action could result in suspension or even dismissal.

BL stressed that the men had been keeping to their work schedules and turning in work of the required quality.

## Tugmen continue action

THE 300 tugmen on the Mersey continued, for the 14th weekend since early August, blocking of the Gladstone Dock river entrance to the £50m Royal Seaforth container terminal at Crosby. Originally it was a complete

ban from Friday night to Monday morning but this has been eased to cover only the three nightshifts. This has meant that a total of 14 ships have been able this weekend to move in and out of the port in the daylight hours.

## Pickets at hospital hear patients' protest

PATIENTS at the strike-hit Charing Cross hospital in London yesterday, urged union pickets to find another way of settling the dispute that is holding up vital supplies.

Three hundred patients have signed a petition urging the striking workers to call off their picket. They fear patients' safety is being put at risk because some supplies—mainly heating oil—are not getting through.

The strike, by 55 members of the engineering and electricians' unions, AUEW and EETPU, is over the dismissal of two engineers who refused to do a "labouring job."

The petition was organised by teacher Mr. Michael Peake, 25, who has been a patient at the hospital for five weeks. "The people who are really suffering in this dispute are the patients," he said. "They need a chance to express themselves."

Mr. Peake, who is a member of a union, said he had spent two years in hospital for cancer operations and realised the problems that arose when there was a threat of operations being postponed.

"It's not union-bashing, it's just that I felt no grievance,

however strong it may be, could justify putting patients' lives at risk. I've seen a lot of suffering and worry."

The petition urges pickets to seek other ways of settling the dispute.

Charing Cross hospital said that the hospital was still closed to admissions.

Staff were "anxious" about the level of heating oil.

## Bargaining art 'forgotten'

By Robin Reeves,  
Welsh Correspondent

BRITISH EMPLOYERS have forgotten, or never learned, the art of free collective bargaining with trade unions, according to a report by IRPC, a Newport, South Wales group of industrial relations consultants.

It says that after nine years of incomes policies, during which pay maxima became pay minima, older managers have forgotten, and younger managers never learned, how to negotiate a pay deal based on productivity and profitability.

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
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It's famous for its breakfasts. Its lunches, dinners and teas are worthy of commendation and with the Gold Star and Main Line menus

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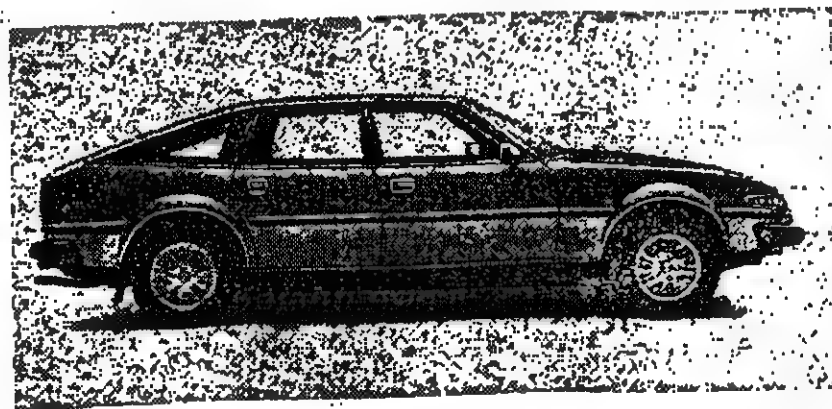


# WHAT SHAPE WILL YOUR CAR BE IN FOR THE 1980's?



## More economical shape

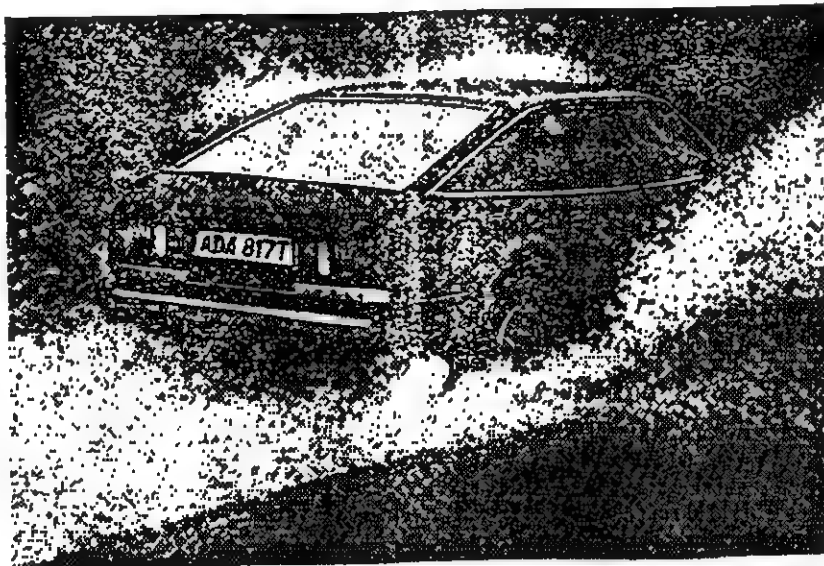
The motoring times are changing fast. Most of the big saloon cars designed for the '70s are beginning to look decidedly inefficient and out of date. With four notable exceptions. The new Rovers—2300, 2600, 3500 and V8S—were designed for the 1980's from their very conception, with a unique combination of high performance, high quality, outstanding design and quite exceptional fuel economy.



In the 1980's, a fuel saving aerodynamic shape will be essential. Rover's design is well ahead of its time and its competition. Rover elegance is a direct consequence of aerodynamic efficiency, giving an unmatched balance of performance with economy—the powerful Rover 3500, for instance, cruises at 36mpg\* and reaches 122mph.

## Better shape

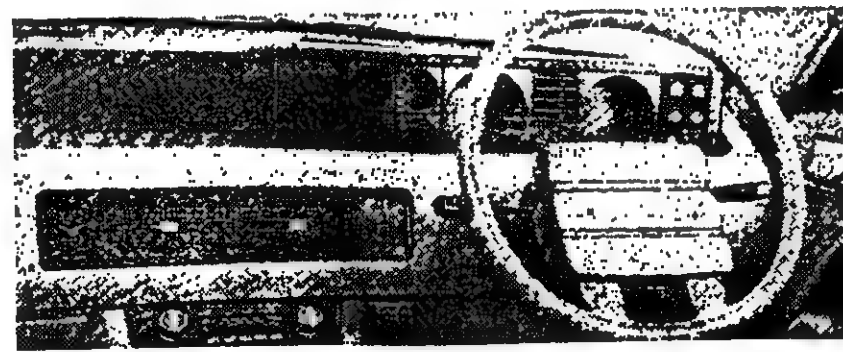
The 1980's will demand better built, longer lasting cars. Every Rover passes through a succession of the most stringent quality control checks known in the car industry. The paint and protection process alone is one of the most sophisticated in the world: 2 layers of anti-chip primer are electrostatically bonded to the body before 4 coats of thermoplastic, anti-fade paint are baked on.



Long term durability is tested in conditions ranging from the Texas deserts to the Lapland snowfields.

## Safer shape

The 1980's will have their hazards. Today's Rovers are designed to protect you from them. They share a strong, monocoque body shell with impact absorption zones front and rear, and energy-absorbing compression struts in the door panels. The fuel tank is securely positioned in front of the rear axle and the system carries a fuel cut-out switch, to minimise accident fire risk. Every Rover is fitted with a



Triplex Ten Twenty Superlaminated safety windscreen. The brakes have a failsafe dual circuit. Inside, potential impact areas are padded and all the car's essential systems are monitored and displayed on the fascia.

The Rovers for the 1980's are obtainable now from your Rover showroom. A test drive will soon show you the difference between yesterday's car and tomorrow's.

# Rover. In great shape for the 80's.

\*Complete Government Fuel Consumption Figures, Rover 5-speed manual 2300 urban motoring 17.5mpg (16.1 litres/100km), constant 36mpg (9.0 km/h) 36.8mpg (7.7 litres/100km), constant 75mph (120 km/h) 31.0mpg (9.1 litres/100km). 2600 urban motoring 18.5mpg (15.3 litres/100km), constant 36mpg (9.0 km/h) 38.2mpg (7.4 litres/100km), constant 75mph (120 km/h) 30.2mpg (9.4 litres/100km). 2500 urban motoring 16.2mpg (17.4 litres/100km), constant 36mpg (9.0 km/h) 36.3mpg (7.9 litres/100km), constant 75mph (120 km/h) 27.9mpg (10.1 litres/100km). 5-speed gearbox optional on the 2300. Car shown features optional alloy wheels.

The company will have a list of the Rover showrooms in your area and will send you a copy of the information service book, Rover Through The 80's, a Oxford OX4 9pg.

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## THE MANAGEMENT PAGE

EXECUTIVE HEALTH

BY DR. DAVID CARRICK

## A case for much more stringent road tests

concentration of irritable circumstances coming close together can conceal into a complement concerning which certain conjectures can be considered and possible solutions indicated for alleviating injury and death due to an unnecessary modern pestilence — the motorised vehicle and its conductor.

DURING the past few weeks, certain events have led me to speculate on the ever-increasing list of disasters which yearly kill the country of individuals who are irreplaceable — not only to their relatives but also frequently to the nation as a whole. Too often these senseless casualties arise from avoidable causes — including carelessness, callousness, callowness and physical or mental incompetence.

First came an unexpected blow: my wife's small car failed its MOT because of rust in that mysterious area beloved of garage-men, the "sub-frame."

## Calamity

Second came the depressing experience of having to examine a banker's daughter, a girl of 19 who, until recently, had been a first-class athlete, had an academic ability which should have taken her far, and had also possessed considerable

talent. All these blessings were blighted by a second of calamity. She survived the car crash, but now has one leg much shorter than the other and a deep indentation in her forehead which, presumably, is the visible indication of the internal damage that causes her to drift off into trances every few minutes. Maybe the best that can be said is that she is incapable of realising what she has lost.

The third occurrence was somewhat bizarre. Having travelled in the dirty, rattling discomfort — for which one pays so much on a BR train, with a suspension that would have made that of a medieval whirlygig seem smoother than silk, I encountered a somewhat unpolished acquaintance staggering out of the station. "Want a lift? Course y'do!" he said thickly. My polite refusal was rebuffed. "S'pose you think I've had a few," he said. "But you don't have to worry. I'm not driving. Mum's in."

As he is a man in late middle-

Too often senseless casualties arise from avoidable causes — including carelessness, callousness, callowness and physical or mental incompetence

age, I presumed he was referring to his wife in a whimsical manner. Not at all. There, sitting bolt upright behind the wheel of a beige-like limousine, was an antique and formidable lady. We sat in and the man promptly went to sleep. "Poor Charlie!" boomed Mum. "He works too hard in the 'Change, y'know. Worn out like this every night."

We sat and went on sitting until the place was quite deserted except for a cat and an empty car in front of us. I asked whether she and her son were waiting for another train. "Certainly not!" she snapped. "Just waiting for this fool to come back." As there was nothing behind, I suggested reversing. This was not well received. "Don't be so damned silly!" she snapped. "Don't know how to back! Never was taught that! Too late to learn now!" And during the half hour or so it took the other driver to remove his vehicle, I had plenty of time to ponder the twice-weekly judgments my good lady passed on other drivers in her capacity as a magistrate.

Taking the incidents in reverse order, I wonder just how many "mummies" are still driving. Surely the very elderly should have annual medical and driving tests. In fact, in these days of everlasting licences, five-yearly driving and medical tests would not go amiss for everyone. Even if simple eye-tests became obligatory, I am sure that many necessary accidents would be avoided.

The second matter that trouble girl prompts me to a view which I am certain will earn the race of adolescence. Driving tests as they stand are hardly better than none. Prior to the first lesson, aptitude tests might eliminate the psychopathic ele-

ment that screams round blind bends.

The successful would then be taught driving — not how to pass the test. They should be instructed in a few common hazards such as slippery roads, the effect of gales, and the problems of bad visibility. Then, after passing the test, a year's probation should be enforced, because it is in that first year that many tragedies occur.

That once golden girl had passed her test one day before the accident. Her over-indulgent father had lent his Mercedes sports car and had waved as she shot away. Just two hundred yards was as far as she went before she was faced with a situation outside her tuition; and panicking at 60 mph is unlikely to lead to soft landings.

## Monsters

But what of motor-bikes? What indeed! There are no real tests at all. Any 16-year-old can buy one of these unstable monsters and let his exhilaration exceed his experience. The tragedies are many, but one must admit that they are not always the fault of the riders. Sometimes they are in the right. Unhappily, that is of no solace to the relatives who are left.

At last to the first matter: the MOT. Without doubting the importance of such tests, I do wonder how often defective vehicles cause accidents. If in the hands of the inexperienced, careless or psychopathic drivers, they are a menace. And so are the newest, most immaculate of limousines.

Is all this "executive health?" Not really, but what is the point of advocating warnings and other measures to make an executive healthy if he or she is a dangerous driver or is struck by one? Because no degree of fitness can prevent sudden death from his own recklessness, or from the appalling mistakes made by other drivers who happen to be mentally or physically ill, or are too old in their unwitting rivalry of those who, being foolhardy through inexperience, are wise in their own conceit.

A selection of Dr. Carrick's past articles on various health topics has recently been published by Bay Books, under the title of *Executive Health*. Price £4.95.

LIKE A heavy-footed giant, eager to change direction but unable to do so with any speed, BAT Industries has made strenuous efforts to diversify in the past 15 years.

In the mid-1960s, it moved into cosmetics, later it spread into the paper industry, and finally it muscled in on the retail market on both sides of the Atlantic. Its latest step, the full acquisition of Mardon Packaging International, is hardly a leap in the dark, but it does underline BAT's continued desire to develop sources of profit other than its predominant tobacco interests.

The increase in BAT's Mardon stake from 50 per cent to 100 per cent by the purchase of Imperial Group's interest, for nearly £88m, will tip the scales slightly further away from tobacco which, while providing 70 per cent of its profits, now accounts for little more than half the total assets.

For Mardon, the full move into the BAT empire, after 17 years of shared ownership, will clear the air, since the company had been starting to feel slightly anxious about its future. "It was right for us to go one way or the other," comments John Cornish, Mardon's chairman and managing director.

BAT's experience outside the world of tobacco has been mixed. Cosmetics, which include the Yardley, Leatherie, and Morry ranges, form only a tiny part of the total business. Its entry into retailing was bold, but there have been major problems — especially with Gimbels in the U.S. and International Stores in the UK — and it is still nursing the bruises caused by stiff competition and paucity returns.

## Slower growth

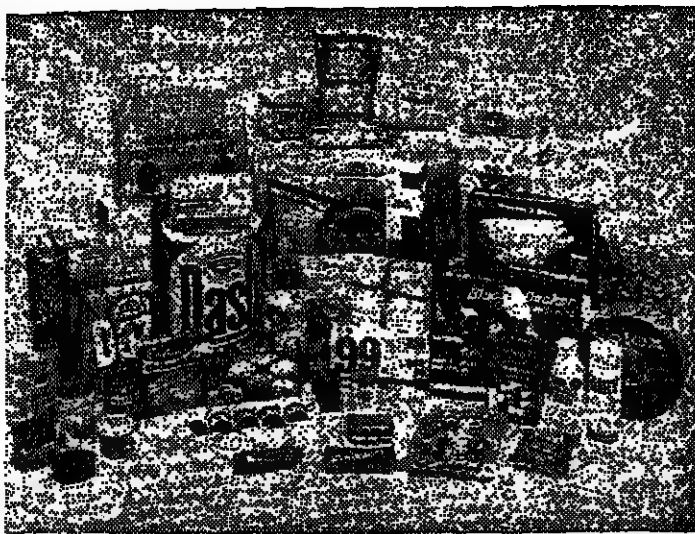
Only BAT's paper interests, primarily Wiggins Teape in Britain and Appleton Papers in the U.S., last year have performed vigorously enough to match the sort of profit margins provided by tobacco. Paper accounted for 13 per cent of group trading profits in the financial year to September 30, 1978, and achieved a 9.2 per cent return on sales against 7.6 per cent for tobacco, 1.6 per cent for retail activities, and 4.3 per cent for cosmetics.

As well as being Britain's third largest industrial company in turnover terms, BAT is also the largest tobacco products manufacturer in the non-Communist world. It certainly has no desire to see slower growth in this industry, but Peter Macdonald, the chairman, still holds to the aim, expressed a couple of years ago, that the non-tobacco side should eventually contribute two-fifths of the profits.

The deal with Mardon is in line with this view, and BAT intends to use its own cash and

Andrew Fisher on the tobacco giant which went into packaging

## BAT tries to box clever



"... Mardon makes packaging materials for practically any product one can name."

expertise to promote the ambitions of its new subsidiary. Mardon is, by its own admission, a low profile company, even though it is Britain's number two packaging concern — behind Metal Box, which is in a different segment of the market. It also ranks number eight in Europe. The product in which it really holds sway is folding cartons, of which it is Europe's main producer; these are responsible for nearly a third of total sales.

"Our strength," says Howard Webber, Mardon's assistant managing director, "is in operating relatively small companies autonomously as possible." The average size of its production units is less than 200 people and its acquisitions, which have been fairly numerous, have also been relatively small. "We don't tend to go for big bites," Nor, despite its parentage, does Mardon depend heavily on the tobacco market. Just over half its packaging sales in the UK are to the food and drink industries; less than a fifth are accounted for by tobacco.

Mardon makes packaging materials for practically any product one can name. Its wrappings protect bread, biscuits and sweets, its cardboard tubes encase whisky bottles, it makes cartons for detergents, dog food and ice cream, and it provides eye-catching containers for cosmetics. The company also manufactures a variety of fibre-board cases, drums and tubes for industrial use, prints books, cheques and catalogues, and supplies expanded polystyrene packaging for TV sets and other appliances. At the consumer end of the market, it makes labels for wine and champagne bottles and produces calendars, mugs or otherwise, to order and for stock.

When Imperial and BAT formed Mardon back in 1962 from five companies which mainly supplied packaging to the tobacco industry, they each put in £2m. Turnover in the first year was less than £15m. By the end of Mardon's latest financial year to September 30, 1978, this had grown to some £360m, an advance of around 15 per cent on 1977-78.

Profits have also moved vigorously ahead, although last year's growth at the pre-tax level was only just over 74 per cent to £234m compared with 11 per cent in the previous 12 months. The slowdown was caused mainly by the impact of a packaging industry dispute on North American earnings, with sterling's strength, new machinery problems in the can-making sector, the UK road haulage strike in early 1979, and the decision not to consolidate profits of the Zambian business for political reasons, also playing their part.

Yet John Symons, BAT's finance director and a member of the Mardon Board, expects the growth rate to accelerate in the future. And while admitting that the addition of Mardon will eventually help to offset its parent's problems with advance corporation tax — nearly 44 per cent of BAT's 1977-78 profits of £433m went in tax, against 26 per cent the year before — he indicates that the deal should not necessarily be seen in that context. It is simply too expensive to march in and buy a company with worthwhile U.K. earnings, he says. "The most effective way to minimise ACT is to make what we've got in the UK work better and better."

Under the wing of BAT, Mardon should have a much wider scope outside the UK. It has already been thrusting ahead in Canada and the U.S., where it

makes about a quarter of its total sales, and does nearly a tenth of its business in the rest of Europe. With the aid of BAT's strong presence in a variety of other markets, Mardon could also penetrate such unfamiliar markets as Brazil, Mexico, Nigeria, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Detailed talks on the areas to be aimed at and the likely costs of entry will be held between BAT and Mardon following the bowing out of Imperial Group, with whom the packaging company will, nevertheless, retain its trading links. "We shall look at the world and see what opportunities there are," says Macdonald. In West Germany, where Mardon ranks fifth in the folding cartons sector through Rotopack of Stuttgart, talks on a further deal are now under way, and the company is also involved in more U.S. negotiations.

As well as being a further step in BAT's attempts to boost its non-tobacco activities, the purchase of Mardon from Imperial can also be seen as a final step in the unscrambling of the two major groups marketing and financial arrangements. This complex process started some seven years ago to comply with the Treaty of Rome when Britain joined the EEC.

## Forbidden sharing

Since the start of this century, Imperial has marketed its own and BAT's cigarette brands in the UK and Ireland, while BAT ranged over the rest of the world. But such market-sharing arrangements are forbidden inside EEC boundaries under European law. Following their unwinding, BAT is now fighting hard to lift its near 4 per cent share of the UK tobacco market which it entered in the summer of 1978.

Imperial, for its part, now has its eyes on the U.S. hotel and restaurant market with a controversial \$630m (£300m) bid for

the Howard Johnson chain. It cleared its decks in March by selling off most of its remaining shares in BAT for just over £150m.

How will BAT handle Mardon, now that it has become its sole owner? It will not, for one thing, integrate the company with its large existing paper division. Mardon will be operated as a separate entity within the BAT orbit, retaining its flexibility but adjusting its management structure to accommodate the increased growth expectations.

The number of BAT directors of Mardon will rise from two to three and there will be a slight rise in the small number of staff at Mardon's head office in Bristol. But this, says Webber, will not mean the insertion of any more layers of management. "We like to have fast-moving short communication lines from top to bottom." This reflects the flexibility of approach needed by Mardon to keep up with the varied and rapidly changing needs of its customers.

The industry in which Mardon operates is a large one. Total turnover in UK packaging is around £4bn and while this is divided among many companies, Mardon has solid shares of some key sectors. It accounts for more than a fifth of the folding carton market and around 15 per cent of folding carton output. Its largest European company is the French cigarette manufacturer, Webber describes France as "a tough market, highly competitive and very fragmented." In North America, it has operated directly, and also through Lawson and Jones of Canada, in which it has a 75 per cent stake.

Clearly, BAT does not foresee any awkward surprises coming from Mardon. "We've always been very happy, very pleased, and very intrigued by it," says Macdonald about BAT's past association with the company. At the very least, its new investments in Mardon should prove a good deal less traumatic than some of its other acquisitions outside tobacco.



Sir Anthony Tuke

## At the end of the day a banker is concerned about people

This is a special aspect that also concerns you.

Banking revolves around confidence and trust in people. I observe that around the world the happiness and stability of countries is a reflection of the way in which their people show care for one another. Thoughtfulness actually pays dividends.

There is one great change that has happened in society almost unnoticed and needs thought and action — many people are living much longer, and we have done little to adjust to the consequences. Thousands of the old are left in complete loneliness; housebound and with never a visitor. Cold and hunger condemn others to suffering and slow death. Medical advance has not been matched by social advance. Most of the developing countries have no social services and even lack sufficient food, particularly in disaster areas.

One organisation is pre-eminent in using care, imagination and voluntary initiative to remedy this neglect — Help the Aged. When considering your bequests to the future, think of the way in which a legacy for such work can go on benefiting others for years to come. Tax concessions now mean that a gift can cost your estate less than its charitable value.

Testators may specify if they wish a bequest to be used for a particular purpose. Write or telephone for interesting information booklets and the annual report and accounts to: The Hon. Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room F76L, 32 Dover Street, London W1A 2AP (telephone 01-499 0972).

## Rank animosity

BY MICHAEL DIXON

THE superior smiles of Rank Xerox, winners of the national management championship in three of the last four years, have evidently provoked animosity among entrants for the 11th annual contest to start in the new year.

Informal mutterings heard at the National Management Game's London headquarters suggest that the chance to humble the triple champions is as much a lure to some 1980 competitors as is the prize list. This consists of £2,000 plus a seminar at Management Centre Europe in Brussels for the winners, £1,000 for the second team, £750 for the third, and £500 for the fourth.

One of the 480 entrants so far registered has even put its

animosity on public record by adopting the team name of "Zerovels Crushers."

But there is also evidence that Rank Xerox has sensed the coming attack and prepared for an especially strong defence of its title. The company's leading team for 1980 is said to combine Neil Tomkin, last year's winner, with John Chapell and Paul Webb, who took the UK title in 1976 and a year later not only repeated their national win but also took the European management championship.

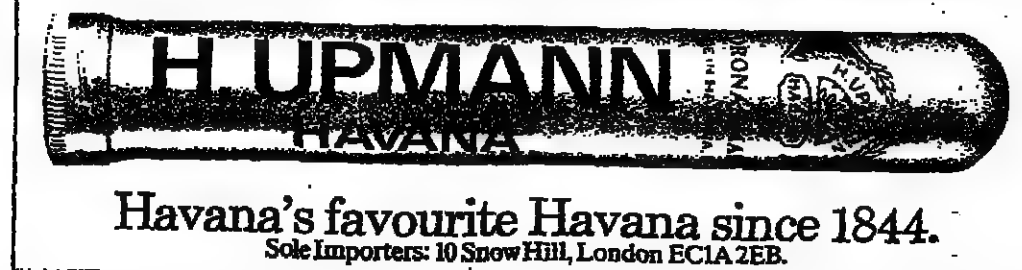
## Plate

The date for the finals of the 11th championship, and of the subsidiary "Plate" competition for entrants knocked out in the first round, have still to be set. But entry lists are scheduled to close on December 3, and the administrators advise would-be champions to register without delay at the National Management Game, Victoria House, Southampton Row, London WC1B 4EJ; telephone 01-242 7866.



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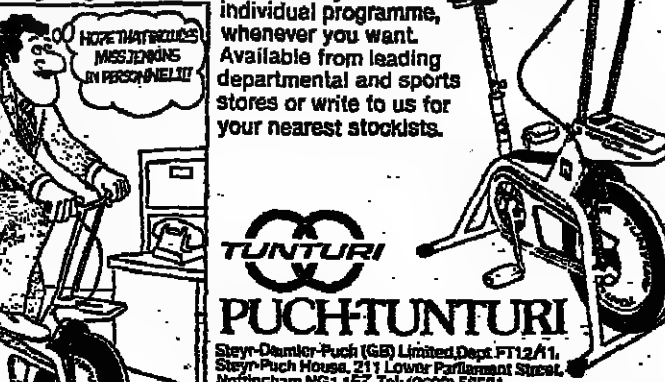


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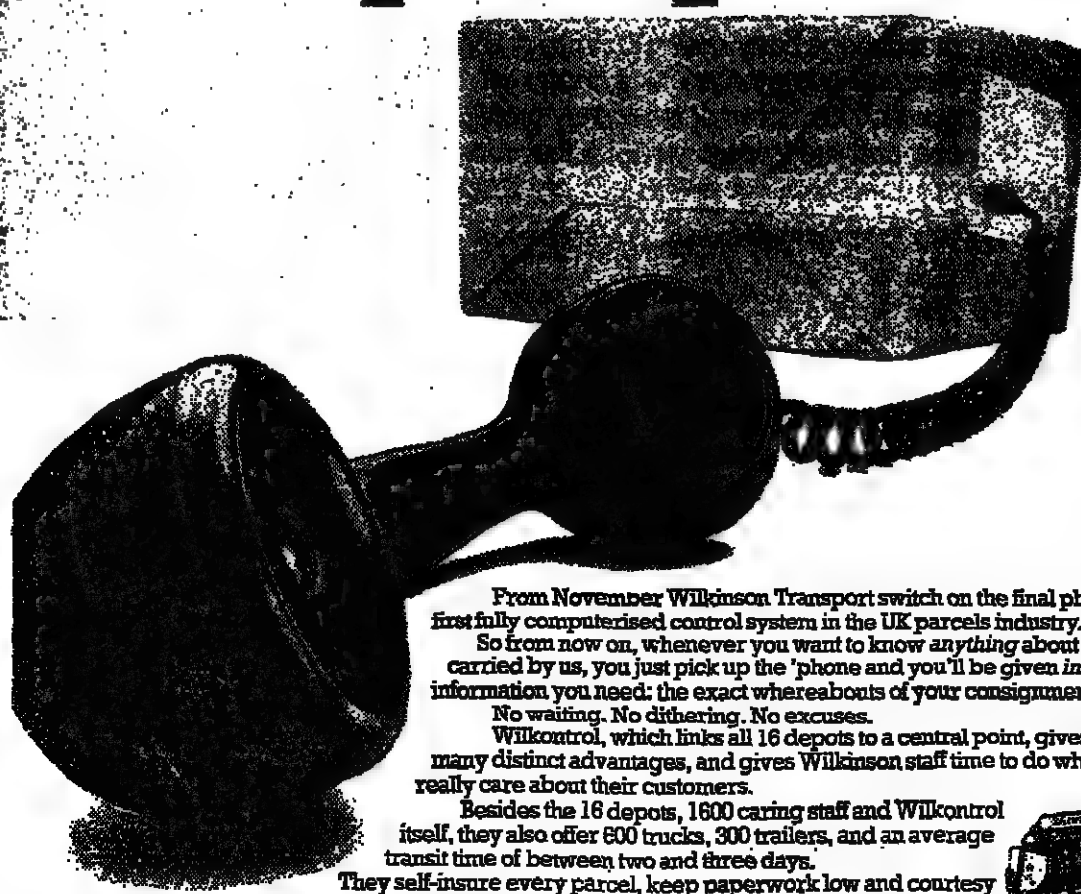


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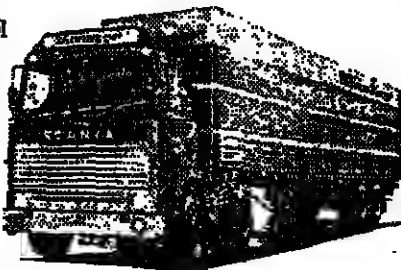
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## UK NEWS

● NEWS ANALYSIS — RESALE PRICE MAINTENANCE

## Discount battle simmers on after 15 years

BY DAVID CHURCHILL, CONSUMER AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

TESCO'S COMPLAINT to the Office of Fair Trading that Thorn allegedly refused to supply Tesco with Ferguson audio and television equipment is the latest move in a dispute which has simmered between retailers and manufacturers for two decades.

In the early 1960s, the emergence of retailers willing to generate higher volume sales by cutting prices led to bitter legal battles, as manufacturers tried to force retailers to sell at a recommended price.

Tesco was often in the forefront of these battles and was sometimes taken to court. Carpet-cleaner manufacturers, for example, secured a High Court order to stop Tesco selling their cleaning materials at £1 below the recommended selling price of £3 7s 6d.

Yet in 1964, when Mr. Edward Heath was responsible for statutory abolition of resale price maintenance, it appeared that Tesco and other retailers had won their fight. Apart from two exceptions, covering books and medicines, manufacturers could no longer insist on retailers selling at a recommended price.

However, 15 years after resale price maintenance was formally abolished many manufacturers are still fighting to dictate the prices at which their goods are sold.

Earlier, this year, for example, the Office of Fair Trading took Hotpoint, a subsidiary of the General Electric Company, to the High Court, to secure its agreement to supply the Comet discount chain on similar terms to other customers. Comet had complained that Hotpoint had refused to supply it with electrical appliances because of Comet's discount trading policy.

It is not just electrical appliances, however, that have proved the main source of conflict between manufacturers and retailers—although the scope for cutting prices of electrical goods is greater because of their relatively high value and profit margins.

Retailers allege that other areas—such as cosmetics, cameras, clothes (especially men's shirts and women's underwear), sports goods, and jewellery and watches—are

all subject to unofficial resale price maintenance. The Argos discount stores chain, for example, has claimed that it has been unable to obtain Seiko digital watches from the official suppliers because it wanted to offer them at about \$40 cheaper than the £138 list price. Argos, however, has found an unofficial trade supplier and its sale of Seiko watches at a discount has forced other retailers to cut prices.

Manufacturers' determination to impose a recommended price level below which retailers should not sell is not, however, adopted out of any desire that consumers should not benefit from lower prices. After all, lower prices, in theory, should lead to a higher volume of sales for manufacturers' products. The usual objection by manufacturers to discount selling is that their products' brand image can suffer irreparable damage through cut-price selling.

## Facilities

Manufacturers argue that retailers can afford to sell at a reduced price because they offer little service facilities, either before or after purchase.

Cosmetic manufacturers, for example, believe it important that specialist sales staff help consumers buy the right cosmetic to ensure customer satisfaction.

Electrical appliance manufacturers also are concerned that discount retailers do not offer a specialist service—such as delivery and installation in the customer's home.

Yet there is also a more subtle reason for manufacturers' reluctance to give in on prices to discount retailers. Manufacturers fear that cut-price selling by multiple retailers will increase their dominance of the retail market and, as retailers become more powerful, they will be able to dictate supply terms from the manufacturers. This is what has happened in some sectors of the food industry, and non-food manufacturers are determined to prevent a similar situation.

Retailers who sell at a discount however, have long maintained lower prices encouraging greater retail efficiency. They argue that consumers should be allowed to choose whether they want lower prices or more specialist sales service.

## Beneficial

This view was shared by the recent report of the Internal Whitehall committee on restrictive trade practices policy. This report says the "net outcome of abandoning resale price main-

tenance has been beneficial." Apart from lower prices, the report says "there seems little doubt that the more competitive retailing environment which resulted helped to reduce internal inefficiency."

But the report acknowledges that "small independent shopkeepers and some of their customers may have suffered some disadvantages."

The report is also concerned at the problems of enforcing the legislation which prohibits resale price maintenance. The OFT is also anxious to ensure that the law is not circumvented by enterprising manufacturers, and it intends to investigate every complaint.

Its problem is obtaining sufficient evidence on which to base its investigation, since many retailers are reluctant to give evidence for fear of further supply problems with manufacturers. Moreover, in some cases it is groups of small retailers who are trying to stop manufacturers supplying the big discount multiple chains.

The loopholes in the law are also spelt out by the report which concludes that while the legislation does not require substantial revision, "it would be desirable to find ways of dealing with enforcement problems either by amendments to the Resale Prices Act, or as part of a wider approach to uncompetitive practices."

That wider approach is being planned under the Government's Competition Bill, presently going through Parliament. However, the legislation gives no direct means of closing the loopholes in the Resale Prices Act of 1964 and 1976. Unless some amendments are included at this late stage in the Competition Bill, the OFT will still face an uphill struggle to enforce the law.

## The fine tuning behind Miss World's fantasy

ON THURSDAY evening amid singing strings, piercing spotlights, cheering crowds and searching television cameras a young woman, probably not long out of school, will shed tears as she is crowned Miss World.

For her it will mean a step into the fantasy world of show business fame and perhaps fortune, for Grand Metropolitan's Mecca subsidiary it means an assessment of whether some £500,000 has been well spent; for Julia and Eric Morley, who still run the event, it will be a night of emotional and commercial significance; and for the 20m people in Britain who will watch the show it will be time to abuse the judges and make coffee.

As part of the settlement with Mecca and Eric Morley parted company nearly 15 months ago, the Morleys were given the contract to run Miss World for five years. The day-to-day running is in the hands of Julia.

Since the remarkably public row with Grand Met the relationship between the couple and Maxwell Joseph's hotel-brothering conglomerate has been surprisingly smooth. After using a Trust House Forte hotel, the Waldorf, as headquarters for some years, the Miss World circus has now pitched camp in a Grand Met property, the Britannia.

The Mecca investment—which of course is reduced by substantial receipts for such things as television rights and other residuals—produces "a remarkable amount of goodwill," reckons Mrs. Morley. Mecca would be hard put to it to buy the amount of television and Press space the competition produces.

Miss World is a rather different competition from its major competitor, Miss Universe. The Miss World show is a much more relaxed affair. The 70 girls involved may have chaperones—a ratio of about one to every six contestants—but they are in no way

imprisoned. On Saturday, for example, each went her separate way, some joining the hurly-burly of the Oxford Street Marks and Spencers.

Much of the overt business pressure that presents itself at a Miss Universe competition is absent; which is largely due to the BBC's need to keep its screens free of brand names and ill-disguised advertising.

This year's competition, at least for the moment, is fairly relaxed compared with some previous years. Political battles, such as the one between Mrs. Thatcher and Mrs. Morley, have been avoided.

Arthur Sandles on the background to the Miss World contest, which takes place on Thursday amid the usual mixture of high emotion and hard-headed commercialism.

women's liberation protests and last year's internal warfare within the Grand Met group have all added an edge. Most of the headline-grabbing problems of the past have been sprung on the Miss World competition from without rather than thanks to any fault in the organisation itself, which is under the steel grip of the Morleys, and notably Mrs. Morley, a tall, slender bundle of energy and involvement who looks considerably younger than the 40 years she has just celebrated and who suffers little in comparison with the beauties who surround her.

Julia Morley is one of those baffling contrasting personalities who combine an almost childlike enthusiasm with firm discipline. You do not cross her lightly and any visitor to the Miss World organisation comes away with the view that the whole thing would be rather different without her.

High on her list of bêtes noires are people carrying Press cards. For years, Fleet Street

has been trying to find dirt in the Miss World event, and scarcely produced a speck of dust in the process. Nonetheless, the Morleys tend to get a bad Press and the scars show. But in the case of Miss World, the Morleys need the media and the media need Miss World.

Last year I was in the Morley bad books for coverage of the great Boardroom row. This year the main target is a tabloid journalist who referred to Mrs. Morley's rather modest fingernails as "talons".

Oddly enough, the competition has moved further and further away from commercialism over the years and deeper into charity. Vast sums are raised, mainly to aid children. In the short time that the girls are in Britain, they will assist in producing around £100,000 for the Variety Club because its administrative costs (around 6 per cent) are so low, says Mrs. Morley. At a recent lunch I saw £12,000 raised by Eric Morley in auctioning presents which the girls had brought with them, usually little more than tokens.

The actual total is difficult to assess because each girl is involved in domestic charitable money-raising activities. Many of them have become caught up with a "Beauty with a Purpose" campaign, and there is a separate £1,000 prize for the contestant who has worked hardest at that—the money goes to her charity, not her.

Although there are some notable absences in the East, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and South Africa among them, clearly the Morleys regard this as one international event where there is nothing but sweetness and light. "People call this a 'sexless market'," says Mrs. Morley. "Well, all I can say is that with all the friendliness and co-operation we have here there ought to be less noise and cattle markets."

## ICI fears pressure over fluorocarbons

BY SUE CAMERON, CHEMICALS CORRESPONDENT

THE Imperial Chemical Industries fears that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will go in for "dirty play" in an attempt to persuade the European Economic Community to ban the use of chlorofluorocarbons—CFCs—as aerosol propellants.

ICI said on Friday that the EPA was due to receive a scientific report on CFCs. The group warned that the agency was likely to use some of the predictions made in the report to exaggerate the dangers of CFCs.

The aim would be to stimulate protest on this side of the Atlantic and so stop the Council of Ministers ratifying moderate proposals to restrict the use of

CFCs as aerosol propellants in Europe. The U.S. has already introduced a near-total ban on the use of CFCs as aerosol propellants on the grounds that the chemicals are destroying the ozone layer in the earth's atmosphere.

The breaking down of the ozone layer would enable more ultra-violet rays to reach the earth's surface and this in turn could lead to a higher incidence of skin cancer in human beings. The European Community is proposing to make a 90 per cent cut in the use of CFCs as aerosol propellants by the end of 1981. It is also planning to ban any increase in European CFC production capacity.

It does not believe that the

present evidence of the dangers of CFCs is strong enough to justify more stringent measures. ICI claims the issue has become a political matter and the agency would find this task far easier if it could point to a ban on CFC aerosol propellants in Europe.

ICI, who accounts for well over 80 per cent of CFC production in the UK, says: "ICI is not happy with the present European proposals because we do not think the case against CFCs—notably CFCs 11 and 13—has been proved by any means. On the other hand we do find the Commission's proposals acceptable." But if Europe were to ban the use of CFCs as aerosol propellants altogether, the cost in

money terms would be vast and there would be a loss of thousands of jobs.

The scientific report sent to the EPA has been drawn up by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences panel on atmospheric chemistry. ICI, one of the eight CFC producers in the EEC, said outline details of the report had been released a month ago. The panel had used a theoretical model, but this model appeared to have left out a number of factors including the possible effect of carbon dioxide from burned fuels collecting over the earth's surface, creating a "greenhouse" effect and so speeding up the natural creation of ozone in the higher atmosphere.

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- 10in x 12in wide fixed speed Two High Mill.
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- 12) GUILLOTINE 8ft x 0.125in Pearson.
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# Technical Page

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND TED SCHÖETERS

## QUALITY CONTROL

### In pursuit of an ideal

A BRITISH Standard which, if applied, could help provide the UK with a new reputation for quality in industry, has just been published.

It draws upon the largely untapped experience of the country's major users of quality management systems.

It does not make reference to any specific product or industry; 7,000 other standards do that. But it presents practical requirements of quality assurance which are fundamental in a form so concise that it could (in fact, should) be used as the yardstick against which a company's capability of undertaking a contract is assessed.

"Quality," for an organisation working to BS 5750 Quality systems, will not mean just the assiduous correction of defects and failures, but a practical discipline which integrates objectives towards this ideal throughout the industrial process, from design to marketing and servicing.

BSI has been tackling quality systems for some time by formalising terminology and recommending systematic procedures, wherever possible.

Guides to the operation and evaluation of assurance systems based on the comprehensive

quality control requirements of Nato and the Ministry of Defence were published in 1972 and 1974.

Experience gained by industry in applying such recommendations has enabled them to be transformed into requirements. BS 5750 is the result, presenting the requirements in three easily assimilated documents.

Three basic levels of system are specified for the assurance of quality of products or services, or both. These are given in three parts of the standard. They cover subjects such as the organisation, review and planning of the quality system; the necessary control of various functions and products; the records and documentation required to demonstrate that controls are effective and the training that may be needed to operate the system effectively.

The new standard can be used in a number of ways. It may form the basis for evaluating a supplier's quality management system or be invoked in a contract to specify appropriate quality assurance requirements. It may also be used in other documents, such as product standards, where reference to a quality management system is appropriate.

The year now ending has been something of a quality and reliability mile for BSI. In recent months the work carried out under the direction of its quality, management and statistics committee has coalesced into several new standards. They herald the transformation of practice in quality and reliability from a combination of subjective values and extempore adjustments into a body of disciplined and properly integrated requirements.

This radical transformation will have to take place if the high variability in UK quality, which is now so common, is to be brought under control.

It has been suggested that quality and reliability are critical factors which are absent from most costing and economic evaluation systems and this is due, no doubt, to the fact that they demand technical rather than just financial competence. Rapid evolution of Japanese industry, for example, from an era in which it was known chiefly for the supply of inexpensive curiosities to its present leading position, is largely due to systematic quality control procedures.

Japan produces highly reliable and sophisticated technical products, is a leader in quality control and has proved that striving for quality results in savings rather than increases in overall costs—increases in market share and profits for the supplier and lower life cycle costs for the consumer.

BS 5750 Parts 1, 2 and 3, from BSI Sales Department, 101 Pentonville Road, London N1 9ND. 01-629 9000.

## TRANSPORT

### Trailers and trucks

TWO NEW trailers manufactured by Craven Tasker of Cumbernauld, Glasgow, are being unveiled at the Scottish Motor Show which remains open until November 17.

One of the vehicles is a 40 feet long curtain-sider semi-trailer. And the other is a low loader which has been designed for carrying large construction equipment.

The latter with a gross weight of 66 tonnes has a sloping swan neck which enables the nose of most large scrapers to clear the front bridge without any need for blocking up. This development is also available on trailers with gross weights of up to 32 tonnes.

Also making its debut at the Scottish Motor Show will be the first right hand drive model from the new "MT" range of 6-9 ton commercial vehicles developed jointly by M.A.N. and VW.

## CONSTRUCTION

### Walls kept warm

NEW WALL lining system which allows the construction of external walls with high standards of thermal insulation to be approached in a new way has been introduced by British Gypsum, 15 Marylebone Road, London NW1 (01-486 1381).

Gyproc is a dry system consisting of two thicknesses of 19 mm gypsum plank bonded together on site to form a 42 mm thick internal wall.

Because the laminated wall is completely independent of the external wall construction, says the company, any width of cavity can be created in which to locate insulation material.

Potential use is mainly for buildings which permit the use of single-leaf brick or block construction for the exterior wall.

### Useful farm buildings

DESIGNED PRIMARILY for mushroom production is a new idea in farm buildings which could also accommodate pig production, broiler units and over-nighting of cattle and sheep announces Polybuild, Alresford, Hants.

Based on a galvanised steel framework covered with layers of specially insulated polythene and glass fibre, they are said to cost only about a third of the price of traditional farm buildings.

Main feature of the design which makes it suitable for intensive production is the roofing—this consists of a series of polythene sheets and netting between which a 4-inch glass fibre matting is inserted to give a high degree of insulation.

Special aluminium protection coating covers the outer cladding to enhance weather resistance and reflect heat in the summer months.

## IN THE OFFICE

### Typewriter speaks the words

AN IMPORTANT aid to the blind or visually impaired typist has been developed by IBM in which up to three pages of material can be typed, held by the machine's memory and then converted into synthesised speech for playback over headphones or loudspeaker.

What is more, the user is kept informed by means of up to 200 short synthesised speech messages of the physical status of the machine and the typed material—where the carriage is, what line (by number) is being typed and many other items the sighted person routinely perceives.

Thus, as the typist proceeds with audio typing from a dictation machine, the material is fed into the memory and afterwards can be reviewed and proofread acoustically, removing the need for the customary sighted assistance.

Material can be reviewed line by line with punctuation (the machine utters "comma" etc.) word by word and even letter by letter in which case the machine speaks each character as a human would, says

"space" when one occurs, and also vocalises capital letters and the punctuation.

The machine works by storing all the necessary speech sounds (English or U.S. English) together with a large but undiscussed number of associative pronunciation rules. Each word is examined very quickly as it comes in coded form from the keyboard, the rules applied and the necessary sounds extracted from solid state digital store. They are then strung together with a degree of blending to produce a reasonably human-sounding voice which, although it is a little Dalek-like, is quite easy to understand.

Apart from the difficulties that arise in reading and correction of copy for the blind, the machine also overcomes the problem of telephone or other interruptions to work flow: when the typist returns to the machine it will tell her exactly how far she has got with the text, to the line and character.

The system, known as the IBM Audio Typing Unit, makes use of a microprocessor with

43,000 bytes of memory which includes a control program with 16k bytes of read-only store and 4k bytes of random access, the remainder being read-only and devoted to the language program.

The floorstanding audio manipulation unit can be used in conjunction with the company's Mag Card/A typewriter, the Mag Card II typewriter and the memory typewriters (in which case the normal storage dial for the location of material is replaced with a raised dot dial).

Use by sighted typists is not of course precluded. The audio unit is turned off and the equipment then functions normally. The cost of adding the synthetic speech facilities to the typewriters mentioned above will, says IBM, be 20 to 25 per cent more than the normal machine. First deliveries are expected to be in June/July of next year.

More from Office Products Division, IBM United Kingdom, 28 The Quadrant, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1BW (01-940 9545). GEOFFREY CHARLISH

## SAFETY

### Long life emergency lighting

SINGLE POINT emergency lighting systems from Carters of Burnley use an inverter providing a 20 to 30 kHz to feed a cold cathode tube rather than the more conventional fluorescent lamp.

Main advantage claimed is a lamp life measured in years rather than months, better and more even illumination, higher reliability and reduced maintenance.

The units can be used in maintained form for regular night or security lighting in hotels, retail and similar premises. A link converts from maintained to non-maintained use, but if this is replaced with a remote switch the units can be used temporarily in maintained form in dance halls, theatres and similar places without affecting the normal emergency functions.

In the event of mains failure the units are switched over automatically to an integral six volt 4.5 amp hour sealed lead acid battery. Charging takes place whenever the mains are healthy, indicated by a red neon light.

Sycamore Avenue, Burnley, BB12 6QR (0282 27911).

## DATA PROCESSING

### Will ensure high reliability

THREE powerful central processors working together under an advanced operating system give the Tri-Novum combination from Computer Applications Research (CAR) some interesting advantages compared with an equivalent large machine.

CAR is using Nova or Eclipse computers together with the IOS operating system running on Fortran, the IRIS Basic

operating system and the MUIS data-base handler. There is a wealth of applications programs.

Design is conservative, both on the electronic and thermal fronts, and the support programme provides for replacement of any defective units within 24 hours.

There is a wealth of applications software for business and management routines and the equipment, which will happily run from 15 to 25 terminals

is suitable for shared use. Basic price for a system with 10 Megabytes of memory is £10,000.

CAR suggests—apart from standard commercial routines from order processing to payroll—word processing, financial modelling, simulation and linear programming.

Further details from CAR Business Systems, 71 Hammer-smith Road, London W14. 01-602 4451.

### Keeps control of the entrances

CARDKEY Systems of Reading has a new medium-range access control array.

It is the first to be produced by the company in the UK, on-site at a new 15,000 sq ft factory on the Stadium Way trading estate in Reading.

Cardkey's parent is the American VSI engineering group which owns Cardkey Systems of Chatsworth, California, USA.

The 790E access control system is a desktop unit served by card readers located at entrances, and alarm monitoring terminals. These relay information to the 790's central controller for evaluation.

The central controller grants or denies access based on card data and the specific access control parameters programmed into it. The use of invalid cards and abnormal environmental conditions, produce an alarm which is signalled audibly and via printout from the central controller. The digital display indicates all activity and allows rapid and accurate card authorisation changes to be made.

The console contains the central controller, and has a digital display, programming keys, and printer. The system has a 500 card memory, which can be increased to 2,500, capacity to handle 16 card reader

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## Cheltenham Festival

## Not in front of the colonel

by ALAN FORREST

Cheltenham's 30th Festival of Literature ended with Second Hand Rose belted out by a blonde torch singer with a dramatic bust. Some members of the old guard made an excuse and left even though flesh and wine was still available at the Town Hall bar.

This was not the first of the few things that upset Cheltenham's colonels and their ladies. Allen Ginsberg and his poet colleague Peter Orlovsky had previously given the Town Hall audience a nicely rude message from the "beat" generation, although the four-letter words were appreciated by the handful of girls from Cheltenham Ladies' College, allowed out in the cause of literature.

It was the second festival directed by Anthony Smith. He tells me it will be his last for the time being—he wants more time for writing. Mr. Smith has certainly left his mark on Cheltenham. This year the usually week-long feast was telescoped into four days and held under one roof, the Town Hall, with continuous happenings. It worked. The result is a kind of literary workshop, open 12 hours and licensed for the sale of alcohol.

Ticket sales were better than anybody expected. Two hundred people packed in at 12 noon on a Sunday to hear Selma James, the American feminist writer, talking about "Ms. Jane Austen," that most subversive of novelists. Ms. Austen was apparently warning the British ruling class that it might go the same way as the French if it insisted on Elizabeth Bennet marrying Mr. Collins. It was all very enjoyable, and judging by the 75 per cent female content of the audience, many Cheltenham lunches on Sunday were spoiled.

At least 50 people had to be turned away from a Sunday 4 p.m. reading of World War One poetry by Jon Silkin and Frances Horowitz. This was the story from the start—a clamour for seats and a captive audience in the Town Hall pausing only for tea and cucumber sandwiches before being whisked off to another appointment with poets and novelists.

In the past the festival has begun with a literary lollipop, usually from Royal Shakespeare Company actors. This time the lollipop was Conor Cruise O'Brien delivering The Cheltenham Lecture on religion, politics

and writing. It was beautifully done—Dr. O'Brien ranging through Greece and Rome, the English, French, American and Russian revolutions in the space of 90 minutes and winding up with Ireland—and Yeats' writing the scenario for the Easter Rising.

Novelists Malcolm Bradbury, Fay Weldon and Angela Carter discussed the economics of literature with Matthew Evans, Faber's managing director, and Bristol bookseller Jon Donovan—a session which produced a lot of ego-trips, but nothing useful about selling books and rewarding authors. But, again, it was nice to talk.

A session on crime writing promised much, but misfired as more interest was shown in the views of Fleet Street crime reporter Tom Sandroch on crime and punishment than on the development of crime fiction since the "golden age."

One of the successes of the festival was Allen Ginsberg. He was there throughout as "writer in residence" and was probably over-kind to local authors who brought manuscripts to the Town Hall. He ran a session on poetry and meditation and had a hundred or so Cheltenham

residents meditating in the Town Hall at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

He told us about his recent arrest in the U.S. for meditating. "We were meditating on the railroad track in front of a train carrying plutonium waste," he said. And when he discovered which paper I represented, he admitted that he started his own literary career on the business section of the New York World-Telegram.

The "lollipop" that usually starts the Festival was kept until the last evening this year—a programme of words and music on the Victorian period ranging from Tennyson, Kipling and Music Hall songs to readings from the Royal Commission on the Employment of Children.

The performers were Richard Johnson, Liza Harrow, Bernard Lloyd and Charles Keating from the RSC. Cheltenham loved it and I could see tears in the eyes of a former headmaster of the local grammar school during a reading of Kipling's *If*. It must have more than compensated for Ginsberg's howling.

Then to George Macbeth's *Cabaret of Love and Death*—and torch singer Marion Lee. And I'm sorry that the old guard missed it.

## Open Space

## The Father by MICHAEL COVENEY



Veronica Quilligan, Diane Cilento and Denholm Elliott

Although Strindberg's *The Father* (1887) has sponsored some famous histrionic performances—Michael Redgrave, Wilfrid Lawson, and Trevor Howard have all played the paranoid chauvinist Captain Adolf since the war—it is, like most of the author's plays, ideally suited to chamber conditions. Charles Marowitz has

not all that much to add to Strindberg, but his fluent and colloquial version, played in 90 minutes without an interval, does decorate the gloomy text a little.

Strindberg was driven to write about a tormented husband being literally strait-jacketed by a household of rampant termagants partly in

reaction to Ibsen's stage feminism, partly to make something of his disastrous marriage. As usual, the racist stench of a failed relationship is utterly credible. Mr. Marowitz opens proceedings with a couple of evocative tableaux: Denholm Elliott, already in the strait-jacket which his old nurse will finally foist on him with

nursery talk, and Veronica Quilligan as Bertha the daughter punching holes in a painting; and then Diane Cilento as Laura being ravaged from behind by a soldier.

At least the second image gives richness to Laura's tantalising claim that she might have been unfaithful once she has poisoned the Captain's ear with doubts of Bertha's paternity. And Mr. Marowitz piles on the agony by switching the doctor's interview with Laura into an adulterous flirtation, a liberty Strindberg might have questioned before gleefully approving.

The central passage of the play is beautifully done. Miss Cilento dissolving her husband's sexual and social status with chill cruelty. At this point, the Captain throws an oil lamp at her. The production's response is to send on daughter, wife and nurse with flaming torches.

This is a very neat touch, as Mr. Elliott is careful to establish that, before the paranoia set in, he was just a reasonably bad-tempered sort of chap who is savagely treated for his outbursts. Denholm Elliott eschews histrionics for a genuinely well-nourished portrait of the male chauvinist as victim.

Today's feminists will no doubt scoff, arguing that the play schematically avoids the real issues (that is, what they think it should be about). As it stands, the Open Space, about to resort to a nomadic life as the lease in Euston Road is up, has scored a memorable and very well acted triumph.

## Old Vic

## The 88 by B. A. YOUNG

"The 88" are the 88 men of the Connaught Rangers (the 88th of Foot) who were court-martialled for mutiny in India in 1920. Only one was sentenced to death, Pte. James Daly. It was he who, first, announcing clearly who he was, led a bayonet charge against the guard at Solon in the Punjab. The guard fired in self-defence and killed one of Daly's party and one bystander.

In a corner of the stage, we have the Prosecuting Officer and some of his witnesses to give the bare bones of the evidence. On the rest of the stage the men themselves fill in the details, sometimes exchanging words with the witnesses. The mutiny was always polite until

that fatal charge. (I was in a mutiny myself in Africa in 1942, and the malaris were so friendly that we arranged a football match between the officers and the sergeants' mess to keep them out of trouble.) All the men wanted was to leave the service of the King of England and go home to a free Ireland.

Mainly the author, Glyn Jones, has used documentary techniques, with soliloquy to establish personal character, descriptive narrative to deploy the facts, small dramatic scenes to add colour, Daly's execution is shown right up to the volley of the firing-party (firing towards the audience, I should say, in case anyone is nervous of firearms). It is part of the

story that none of the mutineers expresses any emotion but love for Ireland, and the characterisation never goes very deep. It is hard not to feel sorry for a man about to be shot, even a mutineer, but apart from a routine refusal to be blindfolded, Daly goes to his death without much appeal to any but Irish sympathies.

Mark Boffery plays him as well as such an undemocratic hero may be played. Most of the other soldiers are one-quality men, though John Cording as Pte. Hawes can rouse the feelings. The officers, not being quite so mass-produced as the other ranks, come off better. There is a good performance by

Ralph Michael as the battalion commander, a moving performance by Trevor Martin as a priest (and also as a staff colonel). Ronnie Stevens is ramrod-straight as Major Lloyd, the Prosecuting Officer.

The only character I found hard to believe in was Major Payne (Paul Toothill), who is capable when drunk of falling in a squad and threatening to shoot the prisoners down like dogs.

I must say in conclusion that this hardly seems the most discreet time to put on a play about Irish disaffection in the British Army, when the British Army is trying to keep the peace, with great difficulty and hardship, in Ireland today.



Linda Lou Allen and Thea Rantf

## New End

## Ionescopade

by MICHAEL COVENEY

Twenty years after what has become known in Ionesco's collected notes as "The London Controversy," our theatre is still waiting for the only answer that matters—theatrical proof of the pudding. A heated correspondence in *The Observer* featured Ionesco himself, Kenneth Tynan, Philip Toynbee, Orson Welles and many others, bandying such fine-sounding phrases as "objective reality," "social realism" and "theatre as anti-theatre." The plays themselves have been resolutely ignored, although people have memories of Laurence Olivier in *Rhinoceros*.

This little revue, which originated off-Broadway as long ago as 1973, is most successful when it has least to do with Ionesco. To be sure, there are loyal performances of such short works as *Moid To Marry* (in which a philosophical gent bemoans the onset of technological advance is introduced to a young man) and *The Leader* (where a private throng is steamrollered into public subservience by the alarming entrance of a headless dictator—why should he need a head if he's a genius, etc?). But neither argues against the wisdom of the English theatre in turning its back on the absurdist guru.

The wit is protracted, the theatrical devices dated, the Gallic charm, if any, obviously untranslatable.

Director Paul Marcus has concentrated on producing a song and dance show that, to put it kindly, is a pleasant surprise in such constricted circumstances. Mr. Marcus always seems to throw an expressive mime, a bit of old-style Berlin cabaret, a few thighs and high kicks into anything he does. Nothing wrong with that, but this does not constitute a defence of Ionesco or even a challenge to his reputation. It just offers a gorgeous contradiction to everything Ionesco was on about.

Mr. Marcus is capably abetted in this schizophrenic task by the sweet and sour music of Mildred Kaymen, who has also chipped lyrics from the assorted journals and plays. I loved the song of the murderous ballerina in "Bobby Watson and Family," in which Judith Bruce expertly encapsulated more or less all Ionesco had to say on the vexed topic of art versus life.

A pleasant company also includes that excellent actor David Schofield letting his hair down, Thea Rantf with a mouth as big as the Wash and the highly attractive Linda Lou Allen. But you come away pondering the artists' versatility and wondering whether an ingenious production of one of the longer plays might not have done something to clear up the vague suspicion that the wily old French Rumanian was a bit of a con.

## King's Lynn Festival's new directors

Dame Janet Baker, the mezzo-soprano, and Sir Keith Faulkner, former principal of the Royal College of Music, are to be the artistic directors of the King's Lynn festival from 1981 for three years.

They will succeed Christopher Hogwood, the distinguished early music specialist, who will have been the festival's artistic director for five years, from 1976 to 1980.

Dame Janet and Sir Keith already have their major plans for the 1981 festival in hand. They will continue and develop the emphasis placed on quality

of artists and performances established by the festival's founder, Ruth, Lady Fernoy, and continued by her successor, Christopher Hogwood.

## New head for Chichester Festival Theatre

Mr. Keith Green, 50, has been appointed administrator of Chichester Festival Theatre with effect from January 1. He leaves the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, where he has been the joint director since 1974.

## Wexford Festival

## La Vestale

by RONALD CRICHTON

When a festival noses among the operatic repertoire, as enterprisingly as Wexford, one can hardly complain if out of three productions in a given year, there is one failure to two successes. All the same it was little said that this year's non-success (since something of the work's quality came over, failure is perhaps too strong a word) should have been Spontini's *La Vestale*, a stronger, more serious, more important opera than the brothers Ricci's *Crispino e la comare* or Montezzi's *L'amore del re*, already described on this page.

Gennaro Spontini's career was divided between his native Italy, Paris, and Berlin. *La Vestale* (1807) belongs to the Paris period. The tale of a vestal virgin unfaithful to her vows is the art of the Napoleonic era writ in music. The externals are formal and even frigid, far less than the core. There are links with the neo-classical world of *Carmina Burana* and *Therwalsden* (to say nothing of the French painters of the period). Spontini inherited from Gluck, and what he inherited he turned to grandiose, official ends, Wexford's *Vestale* was just good enough to show why other composers, Wagner included, admired and respected Spontini, but it did not show much else.

There were two main reasons. The opera was stolidly and nervously conducted by Matthias Bamert with dreary playing by the RTE Symphony Orchestra (so alert and responsive in *Crispino* and *Le tre re*) that reminded one of the way ballet orchestras used to doze their way through Adam's *Giselle*. The language chosen was the original French. Rightly so, given Francophone

singers. But at Wexford only Claire Livingstone as Chief Vestal and Roderick Kennedy as High Pontiff got a phrase or two across. The rest was mumbo-jumbo and the two principals were worse than anyone. It mattered for two reasons: nobody could understand anything and because of feeble and incompetent declamation the vocal line, even when reasonably well voiced, stayed dead. Spontini's lines are, or should be, genuinely expressive. Here they were limp and blunted.

Julia, the erring vestal, was sung by the Israeli soprano Mari McKier, who has a voice of considerable possibilities, determinedly projected but not schooled to this exigent music. Without clear words, the result was not worthy of the effort. The tenor Emilio Buoso (as the Roman general Licinius, Julia's would-be abductor) was out of his depth. As Buoso's confidant Cinnus, that good baritone Terence Sharpe wrestled with a bad throat, but managed some telling moments. Judging from accounts the chorus had greatly improved since the first night, but here again words would have made all the difference.

The producer, Julian Hope, disposed principals and chorus to some effect. The designer Roger Butlin's way of combining an abstract architectural structure with a reproduction of naturalistic painting or print is becoming too much of a trick. Even so, he and Sue Blane, responsible for the becoming costumes, made a brave shot at conveying First Empire grandeur on a tiny stage—the standard of design at Wexford this year has been higher than we can count on this side of the Irish Channel.

## Covent Garden

## Liebeslieder Walzer

by CLEMENT CRISP

The return of *Liebeslieder Walzer* to the Opera House repertoire owes more to chance than to design. The postponement of *Dances at a Gathering* has meant that Balanchine's masterly study of waltzing is again happily on view, where otherwise we might have waited in vain all season to see this jewel. For jewel it is, despite its glacial setting. The decoration is dismal, from rickety drawing-room furniture to the men's Max Wall outfits; would the heavens fall if the dancers were at least rid of their white socks, and the women relieved of their mittens? But once this visual hurdle is cleared, delight abounds.

How satisfying the ingenuities of Balanchine's treatment of the waltz in the first section; how felicitous the interweaving of four couples; how firmly placed in the music the fantasies of step, and the little gusts of feeling that spring from them. We see in this initial exploration of domestic behaviour a recurrent feature of Balanchine's choreography: his continuing concern with popular forms of dance, and his ability to use the domestic of movement to feed his creativity. In *Liebeslieder Walzer*, as in so many ballets during New York City Ballet's great London season this summer, dance invention arises

sweetly, naturally from what are no more than common-places of social dance.

Balanchine heightens effects, sharpens edges, and the style at once becomes theatrically exciting. So it is with the first, more adventurous part of this loving portrayal of waltzing. It proved the more difficult for the Royal Ballet's artists last Thursday when the ballet was revived. Vergie Derman remains, as last season, the single truly idiomatic performer here—and this despite a disintegrating hemline—in her response to the lift and lift of triple time. Very beautiful her variety of rhythm in the simple walk that opens one of her duets with Mark Silver; the rubato that is so essentially a part of each bar in a waltz is no less surely a part of her dancing.

With the second, balletic half of the ballet, the whole cast are more at ease, responding to the terra cognita of the academic dance beneath their feet. Laura Connor, Jennifer Penney, and Lesley Collier (who has the loveliest, penultimate waltz in the ballet) are fine; their partners—Michael Coleman, Julian Hosking, Michael Batchelor—are attentive, suave, properly adoring. And whatever the visual misadventures of the production, the choreography is unflawed, life-enhancing. Imperative viewing.

## Mobi's third season delayed

The Mobil Concert Season, which usually begins in October, has been delayed until February to allow redecoration to Wren's Royal Naval College Chapel at Greenwich, where the concerts take place.

But the annual carol concert takes place on Tuesday, December 18, when the choir of the Royal Naval College Chapel will

be conducted by Gordon St. John Clarke.

The third season proper begins on February 28, running into May. It will feature Itzhak Perlman, Sheila Armstrong, James Bowman, Galina Vishnevskaya, Mstislav Rostropovich, Sir Clifford Curzon, The English Chamber Orchestra and the Philharmonia Orchestra.

## ATHLETICS BY TREVOR BAILEY

## Stars no longer running just for fun

THE ALLEGATIONS, that some top amateur athletes from the UK and overseas received illegal payments for competing at two meetings in Britain should surprise nobody. It has happened before and it is no secret that in the past a number of big-name runners have accepted high expenses for appearing at certain events.

What is odd on this occasion is that the offenders (apparently) were foolish enough to sign for the money. The worry is, if these charges are proved, some of the finest runners in the world, including several with genuine medal chances, will be automatically banned from the Moscow Olympic Games.

Ironically, if this is the case they will be punished for taking cash which was far less than the big sums lavished on most of the eventual winners in various forms, these range from the U.S. scholarships to the extensive facilities given by the Communist countries.

Both methods allow the athletes to concentrate on their events without having to worry

about earning a living. At the very top competition is so fierce and the preparation so demanding that very few Olympic events can be won by anybody who has not devoted himself to the sport. The day of the genuine amateur, who ran for fun and could afford to live a normal life, has long gone.

The reason for an increase of undercover payments to top athletes is sponsorship. The sponsor expects and requires the big names at his meeting. These are in short supply, while there are many well sponsored events in the UK. All wanting the few performers whose presence will draw the crowds and the media. It may be ethically wrong, but it is easy to understand the temptation to take the money for an air ticket from New Zealand, when the journey was 10 miles.

Although the athletic administrators are understandably worried by amateurs accepting rewards in cash and kind over the permitted levels, this is the same problem which has in the past worried the governing bodies of cricket, tennis and association football, and the amateur flourished.

W. G. Grace, a real amateur, made more money out of cricket than anybody in a period when the pound was worth a sovereign. I once had a most interesting discussion with a man who was probably England's best tennis player of his time, who was before the game went open. He was complaining about the inadequacy of his expenses which, incidentally were far higher than the earnings of a test cricketer, but when I suggested he turn professional, he admitted he could not afford it.

I played top class amateur soccer in an era when the average home gates were much higher than most third and fourth division clubs today. While there was a capacity 100,000 crowd for the Amateur Cup final at Wembley. With so much money about, it was inevitable that some found their way into the boots of the players, though not on such a lavish scale as was often rumoured.

The simple truth is that in a materialistic society there is no such thing as a truly amateur sport when big sums of money are involved from

gates or sponsorship. The top class athlete of a crowd-drawing sport is in demand. He is in a position to exploit his talent, which he has taken a long time to acquire, in such a way that he is rewarded directly, or indirectly.

The officials controlling those amateur sports with a considerable spectator, or television following must know that some of their best performers are probably not true amateurs. Unless this becomes blatant it is usually ignored, a fact of life and difficult to prove.

Although ending the differentiation between amateur and professional and going open, as has happened in cricket, tennis and soccer, will end the hypocrisy, the price is costly for the sport involved. A professional expects, and takes a far bigger share of the spoils than a shambler ever did.

If the present definition of amateur in athletics was abandoned and direct appearance money allowed, some runners would do very well, the shambler runner would disappear and there would be much less cash in the athletic kitty.

## RUGBY UNION BY PETER ROBBINS

## Scotland's errors exploited

ONE OF the fascinations of rugby lies in outwitting the opposition by careful planning of strategy, tactics and the maximum employment of individual talents within the team.

If it is important to know the opposition's strengths and weaknesses it is equally vital to recognise one's own limitations and to have contingency plans. Unfortunately when the primary strategy breaks down it is unlikely that any contingency plan will work and the game has to be played almost on an ad hoc basis.

This was the position Scotland ultimately found themselves in against New Zealand on Saturday when they lost 6-20.

In reality there was not that much technical difference between two disappointing sides. It was merely that as Scotland tried they made a greater percentage of errors which New Zealand exploited gracefully.

Still, four tries to nil is an emphatic enough difference. Any side playing the All Blacks has to minimise mistakes, keep possession of the tackle, pass well, field the ball safely and find touch securely.

It is very simple in theory but Scotland fulfilled these criteria only for the first 30 minutes when the pack won some splendid possession at the line out and ruck.

Unfortunately the link between the two units creaked because Lawson was too anxious in his passing. The passes treaded dangerously but more importantly, his judgment varied.

Scotland won a good ruck early on with Wilson, the New Zealand full back pinned in it, but then Lawson chose the wrong side to run.

Similarly when Rutherford made a long surprise break Hay brought the ball back inside with Irvine unmarked outside. That sort of error decides matches and Irvine also made his fair share of mistakes, something which Scotland could not have foreseen.

Irvine has not been able to train regularly because of injury and I suspect that he is given enough latitude in international matches and his club games.

The Scottish back line gave the impression of having been picked on reputation rather

than form and they largely negated the finer efforts of the pack where Milne and Biggar were the pick.

Gray and Tones both did well at the orthodox line out, but then Mourie, the New Zealand captain, changed the line out format to two men only.

It was a marvellous piece of insight and excellent captaincy, bringing as it did a soft try from Mexted.

As at Leicester last week it was also the timing of the try just after half time that wrecked Scotland. Another short line out produced the third try and this time it was Stiers who set up the successful ruck.

What has been obvious so far is that the All Black team is very limited both in the scrum and outside the stand-off position except for Wilson.

New Zealand had cause to be grateful to Loveridge for his quick economic pass put Dunn yards away from Dickson, and so Dunn never had the pressure that Rutherford suffered.

When Donaldson came on for Loveridge in the second half he too was so much quicker over the ground than Lawson, and much more accurate in his

kicking. Equally clear is the fact that the team has recognised its limitations. But it is a fact that the changing face of rugby suits this particular touring party.

Once from rows decided rugby matches, and the value of such stalwarts as McLoughlin is not in dispute, but the modern game is so quick and mobile that now it is the fast backrow forwards who sway matches.

In the middle and late 50s, the backrow was just destructive and the laws were changed (and quite properly) to give the game a chance to flow.

Now the game flows all the time and players like Mourie, Steward and Mexted are right for the modern game.

It should also be remembered that the touring team has a great advantage in fitness and so for all their efforts Biggar, Lambie and Dickson were way behind Mourie and his colleagues.

So the game was won and lost by the fitness and speed of the New Zealand trio and the tactical assurance of Loveridge and Donaldson.







FINANCIAL TIMES

## Eurobond Quotations and Yields

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At 31st OCTOBER 1979

The Association of International Bond Dealers (AIBD) compiles current market quotations and yields for Eurobond issues. These quotations and yields are published monthly by the Financial Times. The Association's prices and yields are compiled from quotations obtained from market-makers on the last working day of each month. There is no single stock exchange for Eurobonds in the usually recognised sense—secondary market trading business is done on the telephone between dealers scattered across the world's major financial centres. Membership of the AIBD (which was established in 1968) comprises over 450 institutions from about 27 countries.

## Eurobonds in October

BY FRANCIS GHILAS

Memories of October, 1979, will not be easily erased from the minds of dealers in the Eurobond markets. Price falls of unprecedented magnitude greeted the huge surge in U.S. interest rates which followed the announcement of the Volcker measures to restrict credit and defend the dollar. Eurodollar three-month rates reached a high of 16½ per cent while yields available on dollar issues trading in the secondary market rose by about 100 basis

points to an average of 11½-12 per cent. Investor reluctance to buy dollar-denominated paper, other than floating rate notes, had been in evidence for some time but during the past month virtually no new funds seem to have been committed to straight dollar bonds. For months, the bond market had been clamouring for strong measures to defeat U.S. inflation and underpin the dollar. When Paul Volcker was appointed to head the Fed last summer, the international banking community applauded. Few bankers

then expected that his medicine, when it came, would be so strong. The second and third week of the month witnessed the most difficult trading conditions since 1974. Complaints were rife that a number of market-makers were not answering their telephones and were not prepared to make two-way prices for all the complaints, however, it was never impossible to buy or sell bonds and the Eurobond market emerged from this ordeal with its reputation less tarnished than the Yankee bond market.

In two trading weeks, prices of straight dollar bonds shed about 100 basis points across the board, while yields were pushed up on average by about 100 basis points to 11½ per cent. First Chicago estimated at the end of October that new straight and convertible dollar issues so far this year, which total \$5bn in face value, showed a capital loss, by late October, of \$345m, \$300m of which was incurred since the end of September. Bond houses cannot take comfort from the record reflows of interest and principal on outstanding bond issues to the year end which amount to \$2.5bn, according to Orion Bank calculations. Only a fraction of this money is expected to find its way back into the bond market.

The very poor state of the market led to the cancellation of two straight dollar bonds which had been announced a few days prior to the Volcker measures. New issue activity

did resume, however, before the end of October, but it was concentrated entirely in the FRN sector of the market. The FRN side suffered less than other dollar sectors. Prices tended to strengthen on issues whose coupons had just been readjusted or were about to be so. In a number of instances, the prices of recent issues did not strengthen noticeably but managers said the bonds were moving off their books and into investors' portfolios. Overall the market was hit by an unfortunate punch. On the one hand, the Volcker measures have yet to prompt investors to relieve the investment banks in the dollar sector of their misery. On the other, investors in hard currency sectors quickly began discounting the implications of the package for the D-Mark and Swiss franc sectors.

New foreign D-Mark issues worth DM400m were scheduled

for the three weeks to November 12 but, by the beginning of November it looked as if more than half this amount would be cancelled. Those issues which were offered towards the end of October, such as the DM 225m public issue for the EEC did not meet with a warm response despite the rise in yield offered to investors. Selling pressure pushed prices down in the foreign D-Mark sector, particularly towards the end of the month. Yields of well over 8 per cent are now available on longer dated bonds. On shorter dated paper, especially in the domestic bond sector, yields were also rising. The announcement that DM 2bn worth of Carter bonds would be offered in early November did not weaken prices. German banks had made sure that these bonds would be fully marketable securities, which was not the case last year. In the Swiss franc sector, in-

terest rates were rising faster than the yields offered on foreign bonds. Many new issues were not covered by subscriptions and, at the tail-end of the month the three big Swiss banks decided to reschedule the new issues they were planning for November. Prices in the secondary Swiss franc sector fell heavily. Yields of more than 8 per cent were obtainable on prime names where a month before yields of 7½ to 100 basis points lower were enough to ensure that the bonds were well placed. Further falls are expected as the jump to what investors can obtain on similar quality and maturity paper in the other major currency sector remains considerable. Twelve-year World Bank paper yielding 8½ per cent was available in D-Mark denominated paper against just over 5 per cent denominated in Swiss francs.

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The table of quotations and yields gives the latest rates available on 31st October, 1979. This information is from reports from official and other sources which the Association of International Bond Dealers considers to be reliable, but adequate means of checking its accuracy are not available and the Association does not guarantee that the information it contains is accurate or complete.

All rates quoted are for indication purposes only and are not based on, nor are they intended to be used as a basis for, particular transactions. In quoting the rates the Association does not undertake that its members will trade in all the listed Eurobonds and the Association, its members and the Financial Times Limited do not accept any responsibility for errors in the table.

New Issue  
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ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

DM 225,000,000

7½% Deutsche Mark Bonds of 1979/1994

Offering Price: 100%  
Interest: 7½% p.a., payable annually on November 1  
Redemption: on November 1 of the years 1985 through 1994 in ten equal instalments  
by drawing of series by lot at par  
Listing: Frankfurt am Main, Berlin, Düsseldorf, Hamburg and München

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Creditanstalt-Market Makers in  
Austrian Schilling Bonds and  
International Bonds of Austrian Issuers.

Selected Austrian Schilling Bonds*	Middle market price (25.10.79)	Yield to average life	Current Yield	Redemption (MD: Mandatory Drawings by lot PF: Purchase Fund SF: Sinking Fund)
maturity up to 5 years				
8 % Österreich 1973/B/81	100,80	8,11	7,94	15. 2.77-81 at 101,0 MD
8 1/2% Österreich 1974/I/B/82	100,75	8,06	8,44	22.10.75-82 MD
8 1/2% Österreich 1975/S/83	101,30	8,18	8,39	5. 3.76-83 at 100,0 to 101,0 MD
8 1/2% Innsbruck 1974/B/82	101,—	8,17	8,42	19.11.75-82 at 100,5 MD
8 1/2% Wien 1974/B/84	100,75	8,13	8,44	2. 7.75-84 MD

maturity over 5 years				
8 % Österreich 1976/I/B/86	98,75	8,29	8,10	21.10.83-86 MD
8 % Österreich 1977/B/87	98,75	8,31	8,10	15. 3.82-87 MD
7 3/4% Österreich 1978/I/V/C/86	97,—	8,33	7,99	1. 9.86 MD
8 % Arberg Straßentunnel 1977/B/85	99,—	8,35	8,08	29. 7.80-85 MD
8 1/2% Energie 1975/I/B + S/85	103,25	8,30	8,23	29.10.79-85 at 103,5 MD
8 % Energie 1977/S/I/B/86	98,75	8,32	8,10	4.10.82-86 MD
8 1/2% Steyr-Daimler-Puch 1976/B/86	103,—	8,37	8,25	9. 3.81-86 at 103,0 to 104,0 MD
8 % VOEST-Alpine 1977/B/86	98,75	8,32	8,10	15.11.82-86 MD
8 % CA-BV 1977/I/A/82	99,50	8,10	8,04	15.10.78-82 MD
8 % OKB Export 1978/I/C/86	98,75	8,24	8,10	20. 6.86 MD
7 3/4% European Investment Bank 1978/86	97,—	8,32	7,99	22.12.86 PF

\*Interest is payable without deduction for or on account of Austrian taxes.

Selected International Bonds of Austrian Issuers	US\$	Yield	Current Yield	Redemption
5 3/4% Alpine Montan 1965/85	92,—	7,47	6,25	15. 6.72-85 SF
6 5/8% Austrian Electricity 1966/86	97,—	7,55	6,83	1. 7.70-86 SF
6 3/4% Austrian Electricity 1967/82	96,50	9,34	6,99	1.10.71-82 SF
6 % Republic of Austria 1964/84	97,—	7,43	6,19	31. 1.71-84 SF
6 3/4% Republic of Austria 1967/82	97,50	8,59	6,92	15. 3.72-82 SF
8 3/4% Republic of Austria 1976/90	86,50	10,99	10,12	15. 7.78-90 SF
8 1/4% Tauernautobahn 1977/87	83,75	11,98	9,85	15. 3.83-87 SF
DM				
5 3/4% Österreich 1978/90	86,25	7,91	6,67	1.11.83-90 SF
6 3/4% VOEST 1977/89	95,25	7,60	7,09	1. 6.84-89 SF
7 % Tauernkraftwerke 1968/83	99,50	7,30	7,04	1. 2.74-83 SF

For current prices and further information please contact:  
For Austrian Schilling Bonds: Robert Jekl, Robert Wasinger (Telephone: 6622/1701, 1707, Telex: 74261-63)  
For International Bonds: Walter Vogl (Telephone: 6622/2222, Telex: 136948)

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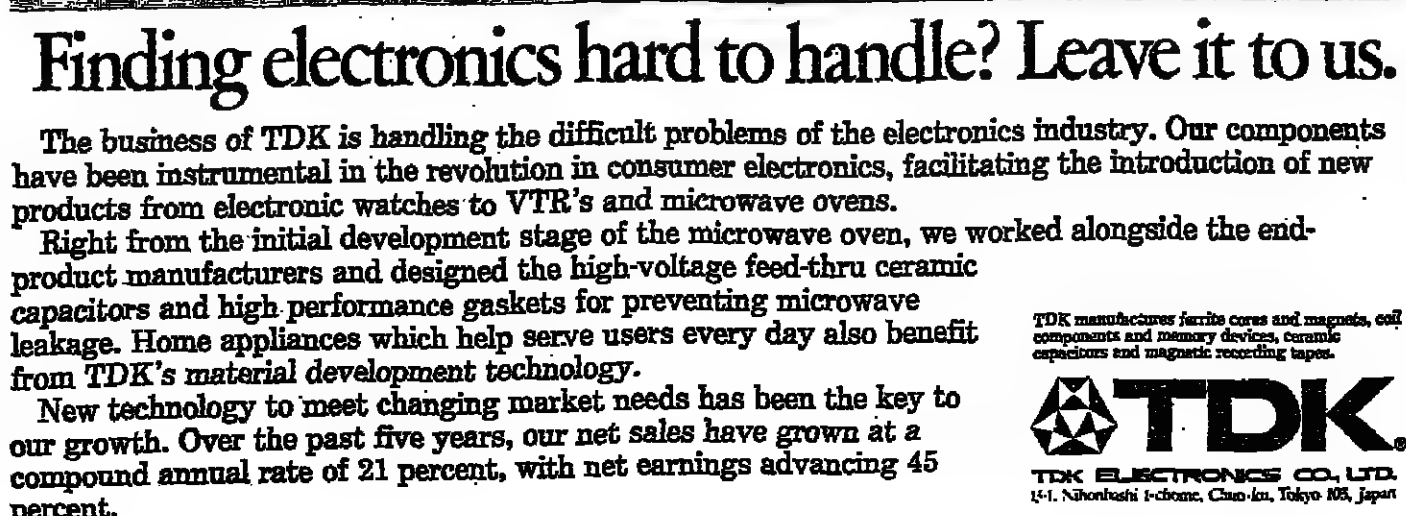
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## Austrian Quotes

### Quotations and Yields of Austrian Eurobonds

ISSUE	COUPON DATES	REPAYMENT	SINKING FUND (STARTING)	PRICE		CURRENT YIELD	CURRENT YIELD TO MATURITY
				BID	ASKED		
D-MARK BONDS							
61% Brenner Autobahn 1968 (G)	1.2-1.8	1.874-83	1.873	99	99 1/2	8.90%	7.18%
6% Donaukraftwerke 1959 (G)	1.2-1.8	1.265-94	—	96 1/2	97 1/2	8.21%	6.85%
6% Donaukraftwerke 1973 (G)	1.3	1.273-87	1.1277	94 1/2	94 1/2	7.14%	7.68%
7% Grozentrale Wien 1976	1.11	1.11.81	—	98 1/2	99	7.10%	7.85%
7% Grozentrale Wien 1976	1.11	1.11.81	—	98 1/2	99	7.31%	7.80%
8% IAKW 1975 (G)	1.5	1.5.80-85	—	101 1/2	102	8.62%	6.40%
8% Kelag 1973 (S)	1.5	1.5.79-88	1.276	96 1/2	96 1/2	7.07%	7.43%
8% Oester. Druckkraftwerke 1975 (G)	1.3	1.3.81-85	—	104	105	8.37%	7.80%
7% Oester. Elektrizitätswirt 1987 (G)	1.2-1.8	1.273-87	—	97 1/2	98 1/2	7.14%	7.44%
7% Rep. Oesterreich 1968	1.4-1.10	1.473-82	1.472	99 1/2	100 1/2	7.01%	7.14%
6% Rep. Oesterreich 1968	1.4-1.10	1.475-83	1.174	98 1/2	98 1/2	6.94%	7.00%
6% Rep. Oesterreich 1973	1.2	1.578-87	1.277	101 1/2	102 1/2	8.41%	8.14%
6% Rep. Oesterreich 1973	2.5	2.5.83-86	1.282	100	100 1/2	7.72%	7.68%
6% Rep. Oesterreich 1977	1.4	1.4.83-85	2.182	98 1/2	99	6.84%	7.03%
6% Tauernkraftwerke 1968 (G)	1.3-1.9	1.974-83	1.973	97 1/2	98 1/2	8.63%	7.08%
7% Tauernkraftwerke 1968 (G)	1.2-1.8	1.274-83	—	100	101	8.97%	6.95%
8% Taurnautobahn 1974 (G)	1.7	1.7.81	—	102 1/2	103 1/2	9.21%	8.03%
6% Voest 1975	1.10	1.10.79-83	1.878	102 1/2	103 1/2	8.10%	7.28%
6% Voest 1976	1.8	1.8.83-85	—	101 1/2	102 1/2	8.34%	7.91%
6% Voest 1977	1.6	1.6.84-89	—	93 1/2	94 1/2	7.18%	7.60%
7% Wien 1968	1.6-1.12	1.674-83	1.673	99 1/2	100	7.03%	7.20%
6% Wien 1975	1.8	1.8.79-84	—	100 1/2	101 1/2	8.16%	7.99%
U.S. \$ BONDS							
6% Rep. Austria 1964	31.1-31.7	31.1.71-84	31.70	97 1/2	98	6.15%	6.87%
6% Rep. Austria 1967	15.3-15.9	15.3.72-82	15.371	97 1/2	98	6.91%	7.72%
6% Rep. Austria 1976	15.8	15.8.78-80	15.877	96 1/2	97 1/2	10.06%	10.79%
6% Aust. Electricity 1966 (G)	1.1-1.7	1.1.70-86	1.769	96 1/2	98	8.72%	6.96%
6% Aust. Electricity 1987 (G)	1.4-1.10	1.1.71-82	1.10.70	98 1/2	99	6.84%	7.28%
6% Alpine Montan 1965 (G)	15.8	15.8.73-85	15.671	92 1/2	93 1/2	7.14%	8.37%
8% Tauernautobahn 1977 (G)	15.3	15.3.83-87	15.382	85 1/2	85 1/2	9.65%	10.94%
6% Transalpine Fin. Hdg. 1966	31.10	31.10.70-85	31.10.69	91	92	7.10%	8.16%
6% Transalpine Fin. Hdg. 1966	31.7	31.7.70-85	31.7.69	93 1/2	94 1/2	7.18%	7.95%
6% Transalpine Fin. Hdg. 1967	31.1	31.1.73-82	31.1.72	96 1/2	97 1/2	6.89%	8.00%
6% Transalpine Fin. Hdg. 1967	30.4	30.4.74-83	30.4.73	95 1/2	96 1/2	7.05%	7.95%
7% Trans-Austria Gasline 1973	15.1	15.1.77-88	15.176	78 1/2	80	8.46%	11.24%
DOMESTIC ISSUES							
3% Investitionsanleihe 1973/II/B	3.7	3.7.76-81 (102)	—	101 1/2	102	7.94%	7.80%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1974/II/B	23.10	22.10.75-82	—	100	100 1/2	8.44%	8.20%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1975/III/B	28.10	28.10.76-84 (103)	—	101 1/2	102 1/2	8.33%	8.49%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1975/S/III UIV	27.11	27.11.79-85	—	102 1/2	103 1/2	8.25%	8.31%
3% Investitionsanleihe 1976/S/II	20.2	20.2.81-86 (104)	—	102 1/2	102 1/2	8.27%	8.47%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1976/S/II	2.7	2.7.83-88	—	96 1/2	96 1/2	8.10%	8.24%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1977/S/II/B	2.6	2.6.82-87	—	98 1/2	98 1/2	8.11%	8.30%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1977/II/B	15.9	15.9.83-88	—	98 1/2	98 1/2	8.10%	8.24%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1978/II/C	7.6	7.6.88	—	98 1/2	98 1/2	8.11%	8.27%
7% Investitionsanleihe 1978/S/C	3.10	3.10.86	—	96 1/2	97 1/2	7.98%	8.33%
7% Investitionsanleihe 1979-S/II	13.10	13.10.87	—	94 1/2	95 1/2	7.53%	7.93%
8% Energieanleihe 1978/C	1.3	1.3.86	—	94	99	8.08%	8.20%
8% Wiener Stadtanleihe 1975/B	29.4	29.4.76-83	—	100	100 1/2	8.46%	8.30%
8% Wiener Stadtanleihe 1977/B	10.5	10.5.82-87	—	93 1/2	98 1/2	8.10%	8.23%
8% Wiener Stadtanleihe 1978/I/C	3.5	3.5.86	—	98 1/2	98 1/2	8.12%	8.23%
8% Europäische Investitionsbank 1978	20.10	20.10.80-86 (100.5)	—	98 1/2	98 1/2	8.10%	8.23%
7% Europäische Investitionsbank 1978	22.12	22.12.80-86 (100.5)	—	96 1/2	97 1/2	8.09%	8.24%
8% Inter-Am. Entwicklungsbank 1976	17.12	17.12.81-86	—	98 1/2	98 1/2	7.02%	7.63%
8% Tag Finco Anleihe 1976	19.11	19.11.81-86 (100)	—	98 1/2	98 1/2	8.12%	8.23%
8% Sparkassenanleihe 1977/S/B	26.7	26.7.80-83	—	94 1/2	98 1/2	8.02%	8.06%
7% Sparkassenanleihe 1978/S/C	4.7	4.7.88	—	97 1/2	98	7.95%	8.24%

(R) Purchase for redemption purposes by issuer possible. The bonds so purchased may be used for repayment according to plan. (...) Repayment at a premium. (G) Government Guarantee. (S) Local Government Guarantee. Yield calculations are based on the middle price.

### Market Maker in Austrian Eurobonds

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## Girozentrale Vienna

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**CTIONS**



1st OCTOBER 1979

## WestLB Euro-Deutschmarkbond Quotations and Yields

Advertisement

Issue	Middle Price	Current Yield	Life*	Yield to Maturity*	Repayment D-mandatory drawing by lot at 100 P-purchase fund
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8% ADELA 76/83	99.70	8.02	3.62	8.08	1.433
8% ADELA 77/82PP	99.00	7.40	2.62	7.40	1.82
8% ADELA 78/81	97.00	7.00	2.25	7.24	1.82
8% ADELA 79/80	96.00	6.00	1.25	6.24	1.82
8% ADELA 80/79	95.00	5.00	0.25	5.24	1.82
8% ADELA 81/78	94.00	4.00	0.25	4.24	1.82
8% ADELA 82/77	93.00	3.00	0.25	3.24	1.82
8% ADELA 83/76	92.00	2.00	0.25	2.24	1.82
8% ADELA 84/75	91.00	1.00	0.25	1.24	1.82
8% ADELA 85/74	90.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 86/73	89.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 87/72	88.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 88/71	87.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 89/70	86.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 90/69	85.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 91/68	84.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 92/67	83.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 93/66	82.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 94/65	81.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 95/64	80.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 96/63	79.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 97/62	78.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 98/61	77.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 99/60	76.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 00/59	75.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 01/58	74.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 02/57	73.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 03/56	72.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 04/55	71.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
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8% ADELA 68/91	7.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 69/90	6.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
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8% ADELA 73/86	2.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 74/85	1.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82
8% ADELA 75/84	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.24	1.82

Issue	Middle Price	Current Yield	Life*	Yield to Maturity*	Repayment D-mandatory drawing by lot at 100 P-purchase fund
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Denmark 76/82	100.00	8.00	2.83	7.98	1.363
Denmark 76/82	100.00	8.25	2.94	7.99	16.583-80
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Denmark 76/82	100.00	8.25	2.94	7.99	16.583-80
Denmark 76/82	100.00	8.25	2		







# Clouds over the Rising Sun

BEFORE THE Tokyo summit last June, a Tokyo newspaper conducted a straw poll in which locally based foreign correspondents were asked to award marks for the economic performance over the past year of seven selected countries. The correspondents unanimously gave Japan an "A" for its success in combining high economic growth with price stability and for going some way towards meeting the demands of fellow summit participants for an increase of its manufactured imports.

Today it is unlikely that there would be anything like the same degree of unanimity. The economy is still growing briskly (at an estimated rate of just under 6 per cent for the calendar year) and consumer prices are rising more slowly than in the West. But the recurring world oil crisis has cast a serious cloud over the country's medium-term economic prospects.

At first glance it is not difficult to see why there should be worries. Japan depends on imported oil more heavily than any other major country in the world and is thus paying very dearly indeed for this year's OPEC price increases. The 80 per cent price rise for crude oil which will probably have occurred over the 12 months up to next December translates into an additional \$10bn on Japan's import bill. This in turn means a huge red figure in the current account of the balance of payments.

## Accumulation

Japan can afford a payments gap in the short run, having accumulated a huge \$33bn worth of reserves by the beginning of this year. What it may not be able to afford is the pressure on its exchange rate and the internal inflationary pressures that are being generated by higher oil prices.

"The consensus of professional forecasters in Japan (leaving aside a few chronic optimists) is that GNP will grow little if at all, during the first half of 1980 and will recover only gradually during the second half of the year..."

Today it is unlikely that there would be anything like the same degree of unanimity. The economy is still growing briskly (at an estimated rate of just under 6 per cent for the calendar year) and consumer prices are rising more slowly than in the West. But the recurring world oil crisis has cast a serious cloud over the country's medium-term economic prospects.

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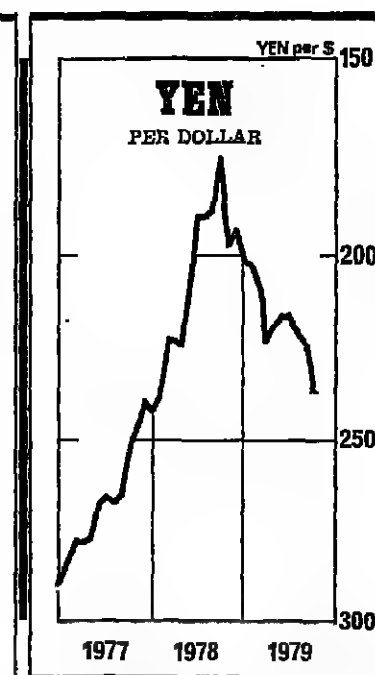
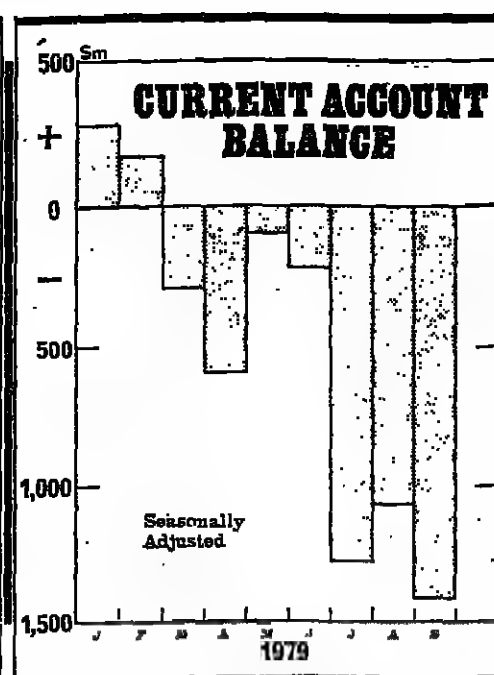
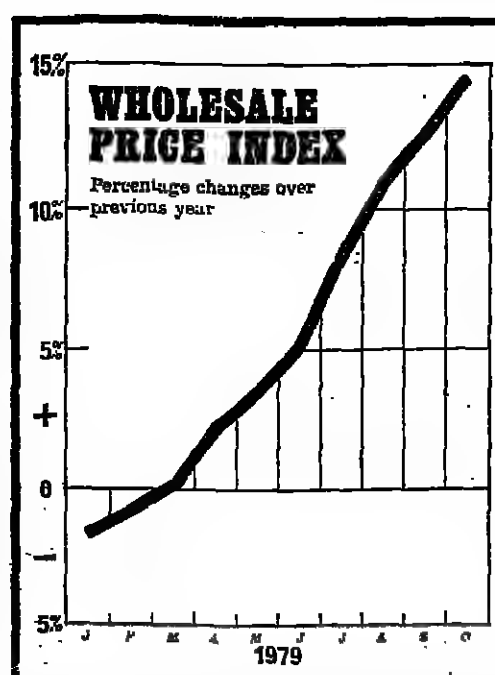
at all, during the first half of 1980 and will recover only gradually during the second half of the year (as prices, it is hoped, begin to stabilise under the impact of official tight money policies). A growth rate of 2 per cent to 3 per cent for the economy during fiscal 1980 (the 12 months ending on March 31, 1981) is a popular guess at present. The figure could be even lower if recovery in the second half of the year took longer to materialise or was weaker than the majority view assumes.

One reason for doubt about recovery prospects in the second half of next year is that government action to stimulate the economy (assuming stimulus is felt to be necessary) will be limited to the relaxation of monetary restraints. Fiscal policy, which might otherwise have played an important role, is an area where Japan has virtually no room left for manoeuvre.

## Fiscal dilemma

The fiscal dilemma (which has not been made any simpler by the outcome of last month's general election in which the Liberal Democratic Party barely retained its majority) is that the Government is technically "bankrupt" thanks to a 40 per cent gap between budgetary revenue and tax income. The gap has been (and will continue to be) plugged by the issue of long-term bonds on a monumental scale. But there are limits to the amounts of such bonds that can be absorbed by Japan's tightly regulated capital market—and consequently limits to the extent to which public spending can be used to stimulate the economy.

If the optimists are correct in assuming that the economy will, nevertheless, pick up at some time during the second half of 1980, they are likely to be proved right for one of two reasons.



The first is that private investment retains an underlying strength which may be only temporarily overlaid by the effects of tight money policy in the first six months of next year. Private investment is strong, basically, because there was so little of it during the three years after the 1973 oil crisis that pent-up demand now exists for the replacement of old industrial facilities.

The second reason for expecting an economic recovery in the second half of next year is that Japanese exports should rebound. Japan spent much of 1978 deliberately restraining exports to other advanced nations and was "rewarded" in the first quarter of 1979 when the volume of exports actually fell by 5.8 per cent from year-ago levels.

The restraints which were in force early this year have been gradually dismantled during the past few months. Meanwhile,

the cheaper yen has made exports a profitable proposition even for industries, such as textiles, which would have lost money heavily had they sold abroad while the rate was below Yen 200 to the dollar. All this, in the view of the experts, should produce a very substantial recovery of Japanese exports at some time in 1980, perhaps to the extent that export volume for the year will rise as much as 10 per cent above the expected 1979 level.

If there is a good prospect that exports will pick up next year, there is an even stronger probability that imports will level off (in volume) thanks to the reduced domestic demand that will result from tight money. This should mean a widening of the trade surplus with developed western trade partners (the U.S. and western Europe) which have caused so much trouble in previous years, but about which there has been

silence during much of 1979. Another potentially serious result of changes in Japan's trading patterns next year could be a very sharp fall in imports from New Industrial Countries (NICs) such as Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, or the Philippines. The Asian NICs, nearly all of whom depend heavily on the Japanese market, were increasing their sales to Japan by an average of 63 per cent over the levels of the previous year (in current dollar terms) during the second quarter of 1978, but by only 32 per cent in the third quarter.

## NIC problems

A zero growth rate or contraction of NIC exports to Japan in the second half of 1980 could give rise to serious economic problems in the countries concerned, perhaps feeding through into political

problems for a few of the weaker brethren.

The confidence of Japanese economic forecasters that things will start to get better in the latter half of 1980 (assuming that there is no new upsurge in oil prices) should not be misread as complacency. Japanese bureaucrats and businessmen are extremely apprehensive about the dangers the economy faces in a situation of recurring (if not continuous) energy crises. They are also at least as much aware as anyone in the West that a lack of natural resources is the most serious flaw in their economy.

What they do claim is that Japan may get through this year's oil crisis in slightly better shape than it survived its predecessor in 1973. Western observers who remember the panic that descended on Tokyo in the winter of 1973-74 and the swift recovery that followed may be tempted to agree.

## Letters to the Editor

### Paying for the CAP

From Messrs. R. Bacon and W. Godley

Sir—It is simply incorrect to maintain as Mr. Gardner and other correspondents do in their letters (November 7) that the present system of budgetary transfers between EEC countries cannot be fundamentally altered without reforming the common agricultural policy itself. The support of European agriculture behind a tariff barrier could continue exactly as at present with a radically different method of distributing the financial burden that this necessarily imposes, just as the structure and scale of public expenditure within a country is consistent with any number of alternative configurations of how the tax burden falls.

The point is extremely important because a significant reform of CAP, necessary as this is, is bound to take a long time if only because of the wide-spread and complex social and political implications within individual countries. Radical reform of the transfer system, using new corrective mechanisms, could be implemented without any delay at all.

Richard Bacon  
Wynne Godley  
Department of Applied Economics,  
University of Cambridge,  
Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge.

### Tax and Price Index

From Mr. J. Birkett

Sir—With reference to Sir Claus Moser's criticism (November 8) of the Tax and Price Index, surely the sensible solution would be to revise the index of retail prices by excluding all indirect taxes.

Indirect taxes are the result of deliberate government policy, for specific fiscal or ideological reasons, just as direct taxes are, and there seems no justification to include their distorting effect in an index whose purpose should be to measure objectively the real underlying increase (or decrease) in general consumer prices.

J. H. Birkett,  
53, Roselands,  
Hoddeston, Herts.

### Pressures on British Steel

From Dr. J. M. Kay

Sir—Your leader on the subject of British Steel (November 7) defends the Government's policy of non-interference in management decisions and supports the Corporation's case that a viable steel industry in this country can only be achieved by bringing capacity into line with demand. This would be fine if the basic problem really was one of over-capacity and if the favoured plants at which BSC seeks to concentrate its production were in fact technically sound and capable of efficient operation. Unfortunately the real facts are rather different.

loss of its market share rather than over-capacity as such. This is particularly evident in the case of strip-mill products where imports have risen steadily in recent years and now account for between 40 per cent and 50 per cent of UK domestic demand. Closure of steelmaking at Shotton and Corby will lead to increased steel imports rather than to a significantly improved loading of other BSC plants such as Ravenscraig or Teesside. It is wishful thinking to imagine that the over-invested major plants in South Wales and on Teesside offer any special economic or technical advantages. There is no possibility, for example, that the much publicised Redcar iron-making complex even when fully loaded could ever achieve savings in operating costs per tonne to provide a financial return on the \$400m investment incurred. A single large blast furnace (compared with three or four medium-size furnaces) constitutes an operating nightmare without any compensating cost-saving. It is equally wishful thinking to claim that recent performances at Port Talbot and Llanwern have greatly improved. Over what period is this comparison being made? The fact is that operating standards at these two works have fallen over the past seven years to a deplorable degree. Llanwern cannot now achieve the standards of quality and accuracy of gauge in its strip mill products which were regularly achieved prior to 1972.

The right solution to the problems of British Steel would be a return to competitive trading by autonomous works operating as separate companies, or at least as separate profit centres, with full responsibility for selling their products. If customers had a choice of independent UK suppliers they would buy less steel from abroad. In terms of real production costs, Shotton and Corby would be well able to survive in this situation.

It is ironic that a Government pledged to the principles of competition and a free economy should give the management of BSC a free hand to destroy those remaining assets at works such as Shotton and Corby which could best form a basis for a future revival of the UK steel industry under a competitive system.

J. M. Kay,  
Church Farm, St. Briavels,  
Nr. Lydney, Glos.

from its total reliance on steel. There can be no doubt that 1980 (and the years that immediately follow) will be the worst time since the 1930s to seek new work for the 6,000 + men threatened with redundancy by BSC even taking into account the moves reported on November 8. Even so-called "generous treatment" as you put it, cannot compensate those men and their sons and daughters who must leave school jobless and receive no BSC payments at all.

BSC's own documents confess that job creation schemes cannot come near solving Corby's problems. They have (and I quote BSC) only "presentational value" in the effort to convince the workforce and unions that they should accept closure. The truth is that if closure takes place, the community faces very high persistent unemployment, and very severe social problems.

You counsel the unions not to fight closure. If they do not, and if it occurs, the legacy of bitterness will plague the industry for years to come. As it is the sense of injustice felt in Corby is intense, its plight is a poor reflection on the country's post-war efforts to plan our industry and social affairs.

R. G. Jobling  
St. John's College,  
Cambridge.

## Sponsorship is serious

From the Director, Incorporated Society of British Advertisers

Sir—I really must take exception to some of the remarks in your article (November 8) about sponsorship. It is one thing to say, as you quote John Carson, that "the whole area is under-researched"—this is undoubtedly true. It is quite another thing for Mr. Murray to say that industry "has only the vaguest idea of what, if anything, it gets in return" and that sponsorship is "a weapon wielded more for fun than for any precise purpose."

Statements of this kind, with little or no evidence to back them up, do nothing to help companies who are looking seriously at sponsorship, or to help those sports and arts activities which are considering approaching sponsors. By all means let us encourage all parties to be realistic about their objectives—but don't just knock everybody indiscriminately.

I know of many companies who carry out sponsorship activities in which they, and only they, know what their objectives are. There is absolutely no reason for them to spell them all out on the platform, particularly if a journalist is then going to make sarcastic remarks about them—but this does not mean that their objectives, costs and benefits are not clear to them.

My remarks are not meant to indicate that we or advertisers are complacent on this subject—on the contrary, we think that research and tight planning of all advertising and promotional activities must be right. But general statements knocking British industry and sponsorship as a whole will not really be very helpful in improving an area which certainly has scope for improvement.

Kenneth Miles,  
2, Basil Street, SW3.

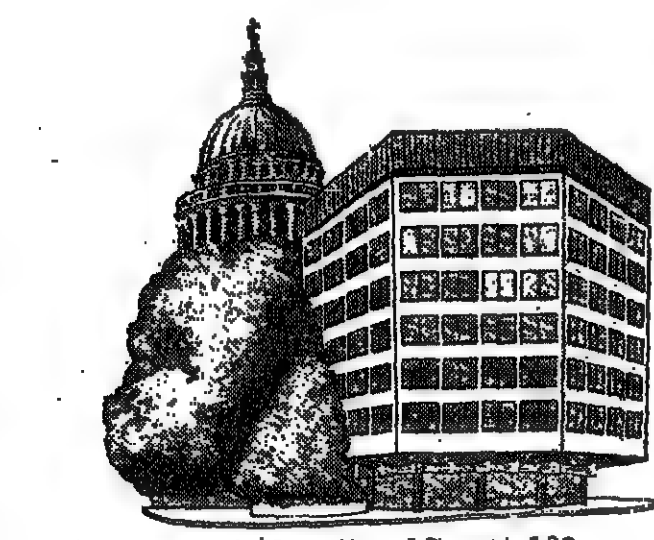
## Today's Events

UK: Mrs. Margaret Thatcher speaks at Lord Mayor of London's banquet, Guildhall.  
Mr. Len Murray, general secretary, Mr. David Bennett, economic committee chairman, and other TUC leaders, discuss industrial and social problems with Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trades Unions, Belfast.  
First air carrier unloads at Hunterston.  
New products exhibition opens, Building Centre, London (until November 30).  
First national conference on

dyarthria (speech disorder) opens, Bristol.  
The Arts of Bengal exhibition, Whitechapel Art Gallery (until November 30).  
Overseas: EEC Agriculture Council starts two-day meeting in Brussels.  
European Parliament assembles in Strasbourg.  
Bank of International Settlements monthly meeting, Basle.  
St. Francisco Cosiga, Italian Prime Minister, meets President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and M.

Raymond Barre, French Prime Minister, in Paris.  
Mr. Kjeld Olesen, Danish Foreign Minister, meets Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, West German Foreign Minister, in Bonn.  
Pope John Paul addresses UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, Rome.  
Princess Anne starts tour of Canada (until November 18).  
PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS  
House of Commons: Southern Rhodesia Bill, remaining stages.

OFFICIAL STATISTICS  
Index of industrial production (September — provisional).  
Department of Trade publishes October provisional retail sales figures, and turnover of the catering trades for the third quarter.  
COMPANY RESULTS  
Interim dividends: King and Shaxson, Northern Goldsmiths, Norwest, Holst, Rothchild Investment Trust, Seacombe Marshall and Campion, Warner Holidays, Western Motor Holdings, Young Companies Investment Trust.  
COMPANY MEETINGS  
See Financial Diary on Page 26.



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## Scottish Metropolitan confident of good year

THE BOARD of Scottish Metropolitan Property Company intends to recommend progressive increases in dividends says Mr. David Walton, the chairman, in his annual report. He is confident that the company can look forward to satisfactory results for the current year and for the foreseeable future.

Since the 1978-79 year-end, the increase in rental income following reviews, continues to make satisfactory progress and together with revenue from new business, will be reflected in the current year accounts.

The company has very healthy cash resources and is in a strong position to undertake selective new business in line with the policy of acquiring good quality property investments and carrying out pre-let developments when suitable opportunities arise, the chairman says.

The last full valuation was carried out in February 1978 and the Board do not consider it appropriate at this stage to instruct a further valuation in view of the time and cost. The property portfolio is now in excess of £76m.

For the year ended August 15, 1978, revenue before tax from properties and investments amounted to £3.01m against £1.27m. Net revenue from properties and investments rose from £3.18m to £3.97m.

During the year investments in heritable shops, offices and industrial properties were acquired in Dumbarton, Dumfries, Glasgow and Inverness and developments of similar projects were completed in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness.

The total cost of these investments and developments was £3.8m and all properties have been let to substantial companies at rents which show satisfactory returns on the capital employed.

The proceeds from property sales during the year amounted to £1.04m which represents a surplus of £118,745 over the aggregate 1978 valuations.

New developments for long term investment are under negotiation in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness and completion is expected on the current year when part of the income generated by these projects will be receivable, says the chairman.

Meeting, Glasgow, December 4 at 11.30 am.

### BOARD MEETINGS

The following companies have notified dates of Board meetings to the Stock Exchange. Such meetings are usually held for the purpose of considering dividends. Official indications are not available as to whether dividends are in arrears or whether the sub-divisions shown below are based mainly on last year's financials.

Company	Date
Interim: King and Sherson, Northern Goldsmiths, Norwest Holst, Rothchild Investment Trust, Seacombe Marshall and Campion, Warner Holidays, Western Motor.	
Final: Clydesdale Investment.	
FUTURE DATES	
Anderson Strathclyde	Nov. 22
Arbuthnot Latham	Nov. 13
Bramar Trust	Nov. 16
Brickhouse Dudley	Nov. 28
Cullen's Stores	Nov. 28
Fine Art Development	Dec. 6
Grampian Television	Nov. 27
Great Portland Estates	Nov. 18
Powell Duffryn	Nov. 22
Rothmans International	Nov. 22
Final: Messing (Trenvassil) David.	Nov. 28
Ransome Hoffman Pellar	Nov. 22
Scottish Investment Trust	Nov. 22
Tysack (W.)	Nov. 16

### Wire and Plastic advances

Taxable profits of Wire and Plastic Products rose from £145,569 to £170,333 in the first half of 1979 on turnover ahead from £908,524 to £1.1m.

The interim dividend is being effectively raised from 0.643p net to 0.73p. Last year the holding company paid an adjusted total of 1.88p after lifting taxable profits to £374,000. Tax at half-way took £70,194 (£78,196).

### Futura sees lower result

Losses of £44,828 were incurred by Futura Holdings, footwear maker and distributor, for the 28 weeks ended July 14, 1979, compared with a £20,408 deficit in the corresponding 27 weeks last year.

Despite every effort to make up the shortfall in production and sales and to increase efficiency, the directors anticipate that turnover and profit will be less than the £4.1m and £100,000 respectively seen in 1978.

Sales for the 28 weeks amounted to £1.34m, against

£1.51m. The interim dividend is maintained at 1.05p—the previous total was 2.45p.

## 1928 Trust up midway

GROSS REVENUE of the Nineteen Twenty-Eight Investment Trust rose from £1.21m to £1.35m in the half year ended September 30, 1979. Net revenue was higher at £890,316, against £585,153.

Stated earnings per share are up from 1.61p to 1.89p and the interim dividend is stepped up from 1.25p to 1.5p, partly to reduce disparity. The total last year was 3.33p from net revenue of £1.23m.

Net revenue for the first half is after tax of £58,979 (£107,173) and tax credits imputed to franked income, £281,445 (£240,670). Net asset value per share amounts to 94.9p, against 94.4p.

Including exceptional profits of £31,220 against £128,350, arising from temporary employment subsidy, pre-tax profits of Victoria Carpets fell from £389,284 to £137,787 for the six months to September 30, 1979.

Turnover rose from £7.33m to £7.94m and tax took £71,649 (£192,028). The interim dividend is held at 0.5p net and the directors say they believe they will be able to maintain the final payment. Last year a total of 1.6p was paid from profits of £700,000.

The board reports that demand has generally been slack although there was a short burst of buying to beat VAT, but not on the scale of autumn 1978.

The company has not directly suffered as a result of cheap imports from the U.S. but the directors say that success in the cheaper ranges must have its effect in the better quality markets.

### FRANCIS IND.

Francis Industries' rights issue of 3,690,630 ordinary shares has been placed by the company's brokers, Montagu Loeb Stanley and Co.

### JESSEL TRUST

The scheme of arrangement of Jessel Trust's share capital has become effective, and all future dealings of the company's shares under Rule 183 (2) will be carried out in their new form.

## Lake View Inv. ahead at midterm

TOTAL income of Lake View Investment Trust increased to £1.58m in the half year to September 30, 1979, against £1.36m last year.

After charges including higher tax of £361,467 (£415,192), £216,141 is available for ordinary shareholders, compared to £235,403. The net asset value of each 25p share is 138.2p, against 144.8p at March 31, 1979.

Interim and special interim dividends of 1.1p and 0.65p have already been announced. Last year's midway payment of 1p was followed by a final of 2p on pre-tax revenue for the 12 months of £2.43m (£1.86m).

## Speedwell Gear suffers £50,000 loss

Speedwell Gear Case Company, the sheet metal engineer, fell into loss in the year to July 31, 1979, and is omitting a dividend payment. For the previous year there was a single distribution of 0.635p net.

The taxable loss for the 12 months was £50,403, compared with a profit of £25,822. In 1976-1977 the taxable surplus was £95,000.

Turnover for the period rose from £1.75m to £1.91m and there was a tax credit this time of £34,940, compared with a charge of £9,594. The loss per 25p share is shown at 1.7p, against earnings of 1.58p.

## Ambrose Inv. mid-year expansion

For the six months to September 30, 1979, Ambrose Investment Trust reports pre-tax income ahead from £315,736 to £366,550. Tax for the period took £111,069 against £101,763.

The net interim dividend per 35p income share is stepped up from 2.2p to 2.4p. Last year's total payment was 5.5p from profits of £822,000.

At September 30, 1979, the net asset value per 25p capital share was 186.27p (207.2p at March 31, 1979) and per income share 31.85p (30.37p).

### Viners in loss

A £73,000 downturn from a pre-tax profit of £66,000 to a loss of £7,000 is reported by Viners, manufacturers and factors of cutlery and holloware, for the first half of 1979.

The loss per 10p share is given at 0.07p (earnings 0.21p) and there is no interim dividend. Last year's total payment was 1p from profits of £171,000.

Turnover for the six months was up from £4.63m to £4.85m and there was a tax credit of £23,000 compared with a charge of £29,000.

## ERA Ring Mill to buy Emess Lighting group

ERA Ring Mill has agreed to buy Firstsquare Management in a deal worth £585,000. Firstsquare's principal assets is its wholly-owned trading subsidiary, Emess Lighting.

Emess is engaged in the assembly, importing and distribution of lighting fittings to major store groups, mail order houses, wholesalers and retailers in the UK and overseas.

The consideration is to be satisfied by the issue of 543,750 new ordinary ERA shares and £150,000 cash payable on completion. In addition the vendors will receive a further cash payment of £115,000 in respect of each of the three financial years 1980, 1981 and 1982 of Emess provided that in each of those years its consolidated net profits before tax are not less than £300,000.

If such profits fall below £300,000 in any of the three financial years the additional annual consideration will be reduced by an amount equal to such shortfall.

Firstsquare and Emess combined net tangible assets at June 30, 1979 was £375,000 and net consolidated trading profits before tax for the year ending June 30, 1979 were £227,171, compared with £144,579.

Subject to ERA's acquisition of Emess becoming unconditional, Larga Ltd which owns 489,342 shares of ERA (78 per cent) has entered into an

agreement with Widenham Trust whereby Widenham has the right to acquire its holding in ERA at 66p per share at any time up to February 28, 1980.

Larga has the right to require Widenham to purchase such shares or the balance of such shares not then purchased within 14 days after that date.

Widenham is to exercise the option in full and has undertaken to place 314,942 of such shares. After the deal the principal shareholders in ERA will be Mr. Michael Meyer who will hold 330,000 shares (33.5 per cent), Widenham, 175,000 shares (16 per cent), Mr. Grenville Payne, 30,000 shares (2.6 per cent) and Mr. Allen Mitson, 15,000 shares (1.3 per cent).

Following the City Code Widenham is to make a cash offer for the outstanding shares in ERA at the last financial year ending March, ERA sustained a loss of £811.

ICFC FINANCE FOR P. PANTO

Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation is to inject £430,000 into wholesale tobacco and confectioner, P. Panto, through a 144 per cent secured loan. An option has also been agreed whereby ICFC may subscribe £175,000 for 16.35 per cent of the equity. The option may be exercised at any

## Record for Herman Smith

Following the midway recovery from losses of £36,724 to £24,774 profit, Herman Smith manufacturing and electrical engineer, reports record pre-tax profits of £239,548, compared with a £27,195 deficit in the previous year.

Stated net earnings per share are 6.1p, against a 0.70p loss, and the directors are recommending a final dividend of 0.23p making a total of 0.46p—no dividends were paid last year while in 1976-77 an 0.25p final only was paid.

External turnover for the year amounted to £5.06m, compared with £4.76m. Tax takes £51,262 (£2,513) and there is an extraordinary credit of £33,892, the previous year there was a £4,313 surplus over cost of fixed assets.

### MOTOR CARS

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### ROLLS-ROYCE

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1978 Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow II in Gun Metal Grey and Cream hide. Whitehall tyres. S registration. £38,500

**CHICHESTER**  
Westampton Road, Chichester, Tel. 01243 61381

1978 Lancia Beta 2.000 Coupe. Bronze metallic, metal sun roof, Almond cloth trim. T registration. £2,995

1977 Rover 3500 Automatic. Mides Gold with Nutmeg trim, Black vinyl roof. PAS. £4,750

1977 Rover 3500 Manual 5-speed. Pendleton White with Nutmeg trim. S registration. £4,425

1976 Daimler 4.2 Auto. Juniper Green with Beige trim, radio/cassette. S registration. £3,380

1979 Jaguar 5.3 F.I. British Racing Green with Black vinyl roof and leather trim. T registration. £11,230

1974 Mercedes-Benz 260 SE. Gold metallic, electric windows, sun roof, sports wheels. M registration. Very pretty at £7,995

**WADHAM STRINGER**

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## City Investing reports record earnings for the third quarter

Revenues up 35%. Net income up 16%.

### SUMMARY RESULTS (UNAUDITED)

THIRD QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,	1979	1978(1)	% Increase
Revenues	\$1,282,984,000	\$ 951,070,000	35
Net income	\$ 37,668,000	\$ 32,464,000	16
Primary net income per share	\$ 1.46	\$ 1.26	16
Net income per share—assuming full dilution	\$ 1.02	\$ .88	16
Average shares outstanding Primary Assuming full dilution	23,312,000 37,267,000	22,680,000 37,124,000	
NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,			
Revenues	\$3,730,244,000	\$2,697,456,000	38
Net income	\$ 95,661,000	\$ 79,159,000	21
Primary net income per share	\$ 3.66	\$ 2.97	23
Net income per share—assuming full dilution	\$ 2.59	\$ 2.16	20
Average shares outstanding Primary Assuming full dilution	22,990,000 37,267,000	22,680,000 37,124,000	

Results for 1978 have been restated to give retroactive effect to a change in accounting for insurance acquisition costs. As a result of this change, net income for the third quarter and nine months was restated and retroactively decreased by \$1,523,000 and \$1,215,000, respectively. Primary net

income per share was reduced by \$.07 and \$.06 for the third quarter and nine months, respectively, and net income per share—assuming full dilution, was reduced by \$.04 and \$.03 for the same respective periods.

## City Investing

To learn more about City Investing, contact Director of Corporate Communications, City Investing Company, 767 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

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## LOCAL AUTHORITY BONDS

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	Call	7-day
	% p.a.	% p.a.
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Tues.	13.725	13.511
Wed.	13.409	13.262
Thurs.	12.945	13.501
Fri./Sat.	12.740	13.642

## BRITISH-BORNEO PETROLEUM SYNDICATE LIMITED

### INTERIM REPORT FOR THE HALF YEAR TO 30th SEPTEMBER 1979

At a meeting of the Board of British-Borneo Petroleum Syndicate Limited held today it was resolved to declare an interim dividend No. 93 of 3.25p (1978/79 2.585p) per 10p unit of stock. In the hands of a United Kingdom stockholder this interim dividend is equivalent, with the applicable tax credit, to 4.9425p (1978/79 3.7448p).

Special dividends amounting to £230,692 have been declared by Shell Transport and Trading, payable in October and November. These special dividends arise from income accumulations during the period of dividend restraint and the Board considers that the major part of these dividends should be passed on to stockholders. Accordingly, it was further resolved to declare a Special Dividend of 7.25p per 10p unit of stock, equivalent, with the applicable tax credit, to 10.3571p at a cost of £336,250.

Both these dividends, totalling 10.5p, equivalent, with the applicable tax credit, to 15p per 10p unit of stock, will be paid on 14th December 1979 to stockholders registered at the close of business on 30th November 1979.

The Transfer Books and Register of Members will be closed from 1st to 7th December 1979, both days inclusive.

The unaudited results for the half year to 30th September 1979 are as follows:

	Half year to 30th September 1979	Year to 31st March 1979
Dividends and Interest on Investments	£289,632	£276,637
Profit on realisation of Investments	215,692	239,420
Short Term Interest and other income	(40,863)	(34,945)
Administration Expenses	(27,607)	(47,085)
Interest on Eurocurrency Loans	436,844	436,124
Profit before Taxation	(97,570)	(110,860)
Corporation Tax	(71,818)	(72,890)
Tax attributable to Franked Investment Income	£267,456	£262,574
Profit after Taxation	£146,250	£112,880
Cost of Dividends	£146,250	£112,880

The Company's Canadian Subsidiary continues to participate in exploration ventures in Western Canada. No drilling took place during the half year.

Net Assets of the Company and its Subsidiaries at 31st March and 30th September 1979 were as follows:

	30th September 1979	31st March 1979
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
Canadian Oil and Gas Concessions at cost	\$419,103	\$399,999
Investments at book value	\$2,619,510	\$2,560,618
Unlisted	3,631,480	3,575,496
Net Current Liabilities	(4,050,563)	(3,972,476)
Less: Eurocurrency Loans	3,736,376	3,705,878
	464,030	494,022
	\$2,444,346	\$2,224,895
Stock Exchange Value of Listed Investments	\$11,562,133	\$11,714,294

By Order of the Board  
RUSSELL LINDBERG  
Secretary  
8th November 1979

2 Broad Street Place, London EC2M 7EP



**BY NICHOLAS COLCHESTER AND JOHN EVANS**

## CURRENT INTERNATIONAL BOND ISSUES

Borrowers	Amount m	Maturity	Av. life years	Coupon %	Price	Lead manager	Offer yield %
<b>U.S. DOLLARS</b>							
*British Airways (£-noted UK)	200	1991	8.5	—	100	Orion Bank	*
*Co-operative Bank	125	1986	7	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	London & Continental	6.090 <sup>a</sup>
*Bank of Ireland	50	1989	10	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	Morgan Grenfell	5.390 <sup>a</sup>
*Bergen Bank	25	1989	10	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	CSFB, Bergen Bank	6.183 <sup>a</sup>
*IBJ Finance Co. NY	50	1987	8	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	Morgan Stanley, IBJ Intl.	5.319 <sup>a</sup>
*Sweden	100	1984	2	—	*	Salomon Bros.	—
*Sweden	100	1999	13	—	*	Salomon Bros.	—
*Citicorp	100	1984	4.5	—	100	CSFB	—
<b>D-MARKS</b>							
*BfB	100	1989	10	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	BfF Bank	8.5
*New Zealand	100	1984	5	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	Commerzbank	8.25
Norger Kommunalbank	150	1994	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	WestLB	8.5
<b>SWISS FRANCES</b>							
*Mitsui Homes	20	1985	—	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	Credit Suisse	5.250
*Konishiroku Photo Ind. 70	70	1986	—	8	100	SBC	5.000
*Osawa Shokan	20	1984	—	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	UBS	4.750
<b>LUXEMBOURG FRANCES</b>							
*Volvo	500	1987	6.87	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	Kreditbank SA (Lux)	9.75
<b>UNITS OF ACCOUNT</b>							
*Mortgage Bank of Denmark (£-noted Denmark)	25	1991	9.25	9	100	Kreditbank SA (Lux)	9.000

\* Most yet priced. † Final terms. \* Placement. † Floating rate note. \* Minimum. † Convertible.  
 † Registered with U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. † Purchase Fund.  
 Note: Yields are calculated on AISD basis.

Night of the build up of **U.S. BONDS** BY STEWART FLEMIN

## BY RICHARD HANSON

how involved Japanese banks were in the loan management).

The MOF is also busily extending its moral persuasion on getting new lending to other financial institutions such as insurance companies which have some active international partners along with the banks.

Japanese banks are not happy with the restraints that the IMF is placing on them (the fund informally extends to each bank's overseas subsidiaries), the grumbling, however, has been kept to a minimum, perhaps because of a few

nt sweeteners. For example  
n the official discount rate  
raised one per centage point  
days ago, the banks were  
wed to maintain the lower  
rest rates they pay on de-  
ts.

After 85 years, we made a name for ourselves.

BONDS/TRADE INDEX AND YIELD				
	Medium term		Long term	
Nov. 9	90.17	90.50	90.97	91.77
Nov. 2	90.05	90.50	90.81	91.19
High	78..	90.75	(1/2)	90.89 (30/11)
Low	78..	90.02	(1/11)	90.50 (8/11)

EUROBOND TURNOVER		
(nominal value in \$m)		
U.S. & Bonds		
Last week .....	704.2	1,819.6
Previous week ...	1,155.3	1,754.2
Other bonds		
Last week .....	228.0	376.2
Previous week ...	330.2	309.1

\* No information available—previous day's price.

† Only one market maker supplied a price.

**STRAIGHT BONDS:** The yield is the yield to redemption of the mid-price; the amount issued is in millions of currency units except for Yen bonds where it is in billions. Change on week=Change over price a week earlier.

**FLOATING RATE NOTES:** Denominated in dollars unless otherwise indicated. Coupon shown is minimum. Cde=Date next coupon becomes due. Spread=Margin above six-month offered rate (‡three-month) for U.S. dollars. Cspn=The current coupon. Cyld=The current yield.

**CONVERTIBLE BONDS:** Denominated in dollars unless otherwise indicated. Chg day=

Change on day. Conv. date—First date for conversion into shares. Conv. price=Nominal amount of bond per share expressed in currency of share at conversion reduced at annual 5% discount. Percentage premium of the current effective price of acquiring shares via the bond over the most recent price of the shares.

The list shows the 200 latest international bonds for which an adequate secondary market exists. The prices over the past week were supplied by: Arab Company for Trading Securities SAR; Kredietbank NV; Credit Commercial de France; Credit Lyonnais; E. F. Hutton Services SARL; Commerzbank AG; Deutsche Bank AG; Westdeutsche

Landesbank Girozentrale; Banque  
Internationale Luxembourg;  
Kreditbank Luxembourg;  
Algemene Bank Nederland NV;  
Pierson, Helderling and Pierson;  
Credit Suisse/Swiss Credit Bank;  
Union Bank of Switzerland;  
Alfred and Smither's Bankers;  
Trust International; Bondtrade;  
Banque Francaise de Credit Inter-  
national; Citicorp International  
Bank; Daiwa Europe NV; Delftec  
Trading Company; Dillon, Read  
Overseas Corporation; EBC;  
First Chicago; Goldman Sachs  
International Corporation; Ham-  
bro's Bank; IBI International;  
Kiddier Peabody International;  
Merrill Lynch; Morgan Stanley  
International; Nesbitt Thorneycroft;  
Salomon Brothers;  
Samuel Montagu and Co.; Scandi-  
navian Bank; Strauss Turnbull  
and Co.; Sumitomo Finance Inter-  
national; S. G. Warburg and Co.;  
Wood Gundy.

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## FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

## BRITISH AGRICULTURE

NOVEMBER 30 1979

To coincide with the Royal Smithfield Show the Financial Times proposes to publish a Survey on British Agriculture. The provisional editorial synopsis is set out below.

Editorial coverage will include:

INTRODUCTION  
INVESTMENT IN LAND  
THE FUEL CRISIS  
CEREALS  
DAIRYING  
POULTRY  
PIGS  
BEEF AND SHEEP  
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The content and publication dates of Surveys in the Financial Times are subject to change at the discretion of the Editor.

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IC 1 & 2 SHAFESBURY AVE. 638  
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THE FRISCO KIR (A, W, S, Sun.)  
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PROFESSOR (A, W, S, Sun.) 2.00,  
3.00, 4.00.  
ASAC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 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**"WE GOT EVERYTHING  
WE WANTED FOR OUR  
BUSINESS AND OUR  
PEOPLE.  
NO COMPROMISE.  
I GUESS THAT'S WHAT  
SOLD ME ON MILTON  
KEYNES."**

JOHN McCOMB, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, SENTRY MOTOR INSURANCE and  
CITY OF WESTMINSTER LIFE ASSURANCE.

مكتبة من الأعمال



## UK NEWS

NEWS ANALYSIS—REVISED DAVIGNON PLAN  
BY ROY HODSON

## Stiffer steel competition

BRITISH STEELMAKERS are bracing for sterner competition next year because of planned relaxations in the European Economic Community's Davignon plan for the protection and revitalisation of the Community steel industry.

Private sector steelmakers, who account for nearly 200 per cent of Britain's steel output, are particularly aggrieved by the modified Davignon plan put forward by the European Commission.

Their trade association, the British Independent Steel Producers' Association, has protested that nearly all the proposed changes will hit smaller steelmakers.

Mandatory minimum prices on two of their principle products—reinforcing bars and merchant bars—are to be abolished from the end of the year. That will make life harder for the independent works which convert scrap steel in electric arc furnaces.

The special steel producers in the private sector will also suffer if, as proposed, some of their products are removed from the list of those which cannot be imported into the EEC below minimum prices.

Freeing this market would further embarrass the hard-pressed producers in Sheffield.

The European Commission will put recommendations for changes to the Davignon plan to the European Council of Ministers later this month.

Viscount Etienne Davignon, the European Industrial Commissioner, and architect of the steel rescue plan in 1977, warned last week that the European steel industry faces a new crisis in 1980 with a likely fall of 8m tonnes in its business, and average operating levels of no more than 70 per cent.

Near the end of its second year, the Davignon plan is recognised as essential support for the European steel industry during a prolonged recession. The plan almost collapsed last year when the crisis was at its worst. This year, as European demand improved by about 8 per cent, the plan gained many more supporters among steelmakers.

While a lobby, notably among West German producers, would like to return to free enterprise, the majority of European producers are fervent supporters of the plan.

Much credit goes to Viscount Davignon for his energy and flair in negotiating and selling his plans many points.

Its most effective part so far

has been the limitation of the EEC's steel imports. Those agreements will continue next year with small proposed modifications such as an easing of restrictions on special steels.

The most important signatories of bilateral agreements are expected to renew them for a further year. The most significant agreements are with Japan and the Comecon nations.

The European Commission will have to take account of Greece's growing steel industry before it joins the Community at the beginning of 1981. Viscount Davignon is expected to insist on Greece falling into line with other EEC steelmakers without any lenient transition arrangements.

The least effective side of the Davignon plan is price maintenance to avoid under-cutting and heavy losses.

British steelmakers are the only ones seriously attempting to hold prices at the Davignon minimum levels. Britain being an island market helps. The

other EEC steelmakers are discounting by up to 15 per cent.

Viscount Davignon has warned steelmakers that the modest relaxations the Commission has agreed to might be cancelled abruptly if, as he fears, the European steel market worsens in 1980. Meanwhile, he is permitting a freer market in hot rolled coil in order to assist the rationalisation of production in Europe.

That is a gesture towards the second stage of the Davignon plan—restructuring the European steel industry for the 1980s.

Viscount Davignon estimates that more than 80,000 European steel jobs will be abolished in 1980. The British Steel Corporation will shed about 15,000 if all its rationalisation plans go through. But capacity in Europe for flat rolled products, particularly for hot rolled coil, is rising. That trend will have to be reversed if restructuring is to be taken seriously.

Deltight may buy GKN  
Pembroke plant

BY HAZEL DUFFY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GKN is discussing with Deltight Industries the possible sale of its industrial fasteners factory at Pembroke. GKN made the announcement yesterday.

The factory, which employs 170, had been due to close at the end of the year.

The announcement came two weeks after GKN said it was talking with Armstrong Equipment about the sale of the larger factory at Darlaston, in the West Midlands, which also makes fasteners. Both factories had been due to close because GKN decided they could not be made viable.

Buyers had been sought before the statutory 90-day redundancy notices were sent out at the beginning of September, but none came forward.

Deltight is a small company, which only recently went public. It specialises in particular types of fastener, which have not had competition from cheap imports as have the standard type.

GKN's Pembroke factory makes standard fasteners, but Deltight's plans, if it should acquire the factory, are not known.

Boom in wrought iron stoves  
revives company's fortunes

BY MAURICE SAMUELSON

TWO YEARS on from the brink of bankruptcy, Britain's leading maker of traditional wrought-iron coal stoves can barely keep up with demand in Britain, Europe and the U.S.

Smith and Wellstood, the Scottish company which sent a cooker to Florence Nightingale in Balacava, is making about 1,000 stoves and cookers a month and expects to treble its output next year.

Last week, it celebrated its recovery by opening a museum-cum-showroom to display its old and new products. One model it has revived was designed for the covered wagons of the American West in the mid-19th century.

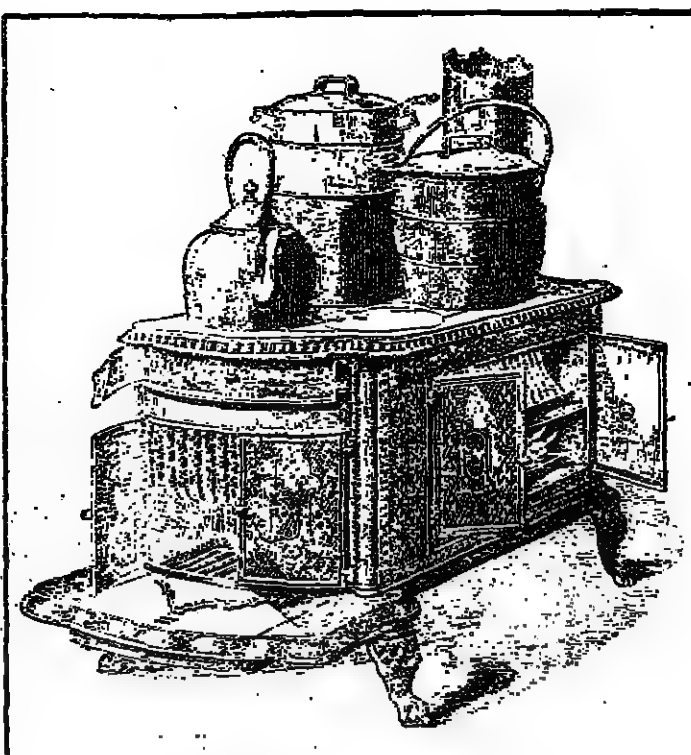
Started at Bonnybridge, Stirlingshire, in 1854, the company was rescued two years ago when it became a 100 per cent subsidiary of Newman Industries and Mr. David Gillan, a 40 year-old accountant, took over as managing director.

Then its business, which was losing £50,000 a month, was mainly contract work for the catering trade. It also made wheel chairs for the Department of Health. Gillan scrapped these lines of business. He retained the company's iron foundry and redeveloped its traditional market for Victorian-style stoves and cookers.

The business has taken off again. The workforce is back at 260 from 200 and two U.S. companies have agreed to handle sales in North America. Turnover has doubled to nearly £3m and, says Gillan, could double again in the next 12 months.

He attributes the revival of U.S. demand to the energy panic hitting the top end of the market. Wealthier people falling back on solid fuel want to make a virtue of necessity by buying appliances which are luxurious as well as efficient.

Besides drawing room stoves retailing at about £300, it is also



Florence Nightingale's Plantress stove.

turning out traditional cookers costing about £600.

Northern Ireland, where mains gas is expected to be phased out in the 1980s, is already one of the company's best markets. It also hopes for greater sales in the Irish Republic where householders are being offered £500 grants to install solid fuel equipment.

are expected to start half-an-hour after the allocation details have been revealed. The Stock Exchange plans to open at 9 am and will close at 5 pm. Instead of the normal 3.30 pm. The shares rose 8p to 364p on Friday, 1p above the offer price.

## BP allocation details out this morning

BY RAY MAUGHAN

THE BANK of England is to announce at 9 am today the allocation basis of the 50m shares in British Petroleum offered by the Government to the public.

In spite of weakness in the share price throughout much of last week, the issue has

been over-subscribed. The application lists closed one minute after opening on Friday. Although no details of the applications have been announced, they are not thought to have been more than double the number of shares on offer. Dealings in the new shares

are expected to start half-an-hour after the allocation details have been revealed. The Stock Exchange plans to open at 9 am and will close at 5 pm. Instead of the normal 3.30 pm. The shares rose 8p to 364p on Friday, 1p above the offer price.

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Position

Company  No. of employees

Address

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Every day more and more people are helping the British Glass Container Industry to save energy and raw materials. How?

By responding to a simple, but innovative, appeal by the industry to recycle bottles and jars.

It's called the Bottle Bank scheme. In only two years the industry has collected over 21 million used glass containers. Crushed them. Mixed them with other raw materials and re-melted them to make new glass containers. Making a considerable saving in raw materials and, more important, energy.

## EVERYONE BENEFITS

The scheme directly benefits local authorities and their communities.

There is less waste to dispose of, giving a saving in costs and refuse tipping space.

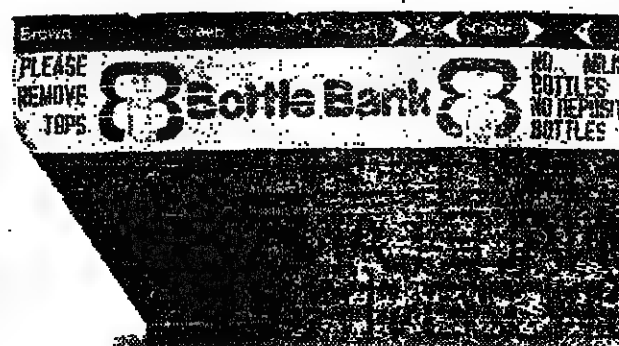
And since the glassworks pay a guaranteed price for every tonne of glass returned to them, what used to cost local authorities money can now make them a profit. Which can be used to help buy kidney machines for the local hospital, or spent on other community projects.

In two years public response to "Save at the Bottle Bank" has developed into the regular habit of saving glass for thousands of people. In fact response has been so great that the glass industry, in co-operation with local authorities, is now expanding the scheme to 200 towns and cities.

Setting a target to recycle 150,000 tonnes of glass a year.

This will reduce the demand for virgin raw materials which, although plentiful in Britain, entails considerable quarrying activities.

But, more important, the use of recycled glass—or cullet as it is called—also reduces the fuel consumption of the glass-making furnaces.



So Britain saves 4,000,000 gallons of oil each year

## INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

The Bottle Bank scheme is one of the ways in which the glass industry is looking to the future. Important, but only a part of a major programme of investment.

For example: continuous research into glass melting technology has reduced average fuel consumption by 18% since 1970.

Lightweight bottles such as the daily "pinta," continue to be developed, using 25% less glass, but retaining all the strength of their predecessors. Helping to reduce material and energy requirements accordingly.

## NEW ECONOMIC USES FOR CULLET

There will always be some parts of Britain which are too far away from the glassworks for recycling to be economical. So the industry has sponsored research into new uses for waste glass. As a result floor tiles and surfacing and cladding materials, containing 75% crushed glass, have been developed. Providing yet another outlet for people's empties. Proving that just because glass is inexpensive, that's no reason to waste it.

## RECYCLABLE OR RETURNABLE

All glass can be recycled time and time again, without any quality loss.

But this is not to forget the returnable bottle which frequently offers great economy and efficient use of resources. Over 50% of packaged beer and soft drinks are sold in refillable deposit bottles. The daily doorstep delivery of milk owes its continued existence to the returnable glass bottle.

But by recycling the non-returnables, the glass container industry is saving raw materials, money and energy.

## BANK ON GLASS FOR THE FUTURE.

Glass Manufacturers Federation, 19 Portland Place, London W1N 4BH.



# This week's business in Parliament

## WEEK'S FINANCIAL DIARY

Venue  
Dunstable  
Nat. Exbn. Centre, B'ham.  
Olympia  
Olympia  
Wembley Conference Centre  
NEC, Birmingham  
Earls Court  
Royal Horticultural Hall  
Metropole Exb. Hall, Brighton  
Olympia  
Wembley Conference Centre  
Earls Court  
Olympia

**TOMORROW**

**ORDNS.** — Debates on Opposition motions on the failure of the Government to support the woolen and textile industries, and on cuts in BBC External Services.

**LORDS** — Southern Rhodesia Bill, all stages.

**SELECT COMMITTEE.** Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration. Witnesses: Parly Comm. for Administration and Comm. for complaints, Northern Ireland (Room 7, 5 pm).

**WEDNESDAY**

**COMMONS** — Remaining stages of the European Communities (Greek Accession) Bill and of the Shipbuilding Bill.

**LORDS** — Greater London Council (General Bill, second reading); Greater London Council (Money) Bill, second reading. Debates on the increasing liability of the National Health Service to meet the needs of patients, and on the need to encourage district heating schemes.

**SELECT COMMITTEE** — Unopposed Bill. University College of London (Room 4 pm).

Barbours Tea Spt H.L. 1.190030	Executive Clothes, 0.6670		
Bramall (C. D.), 2.050	Finance for Industry L., 70c		
Bronck Watson 0.750	General and Commercial Ins. 70c		

[illegible]

## Strong support for 'utmost good faith'

... BY OUR INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

**EACH WINTER** the Insurance Institute of London mounts a series of lectures, debates, discussions and other meetings, covering matters of fundamental law and practice, and problems in the mainstream of insurance.

Meetings are held in various parts of London, but by tradition the main meetings are held at 5.30 pm on Thursdays in the Chartered Insurance Institute hall, Aldermanbury. The programme includes papers by eminent people outside the industry.

Likely to draw the biggest audience this winter is Mr. Roy Jenkins, President of the European Commission. On March 3 he will discuss "Prospects for the 1980s."

## Responsibility

should also be well heard when he reviews the Department's regulations on January 21.

Other main Monday meetings offer papers—also by people practising insurance—on "Insurance Companies' Overseas Operations" November 19; "Are Captives Here to Stay?" (December 3); "The Role of Insurers as Institutional Investors" (February 4); "London's Place in the Development of the International Market" (February 18); and "Free Enterprise in a Mixed Economy" (March 17).

Last Monday, Mr. Ian Findlay, chairman of Lloyd's, spoke on "utmost good faith," the legal principle which underlies the edifice of British insurance and distinguishes the contract of insurance from all other contracts.

"It is incumbent on the broker to present his client's case fairly and fully in order to allow the underwriter to make a balanced assessment of the risk," the professional intermediary should be aware of every aspect of the risk that may be involved, an underwriter's judgment, and the broker must be even more aware that his clients of every implication of the risk. ... If a broker were, for example, unaware of the facts were material, he would put insurers perhaps in a worse position than they are in now, if they were dealing directly with the insured. ... It is here that utmost (utmost good faith) is the danger of yielding place to new watchword—*good faith*—let the seller beware."

According to Mr. Findlay, a

## Modification

But utmost good faith is no longer accorded its past reverence. In Britain, law commissioners question the continuing application of its full rigour, while some economists object to its existence. In many countries of the continent, because insurers have got by without the severity of British rules, progress towards Common Market harmonisation argues for modification.

However, modification lies in the future, and may be years away. Meanwhile, the principle of utmost good faith remains the legal cornerstone which no

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Company \_\_\_\_\_

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Preston PR5 6AX. Telephone: Preston (0772) 36611.

**MOSSIDE** 



## FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

Monday November 12 1979

مكتبة النور

## Retailing

Britain's retail trade has had to cope this year with dramatic changes in trading conditions and sales volume. In the next few years, advances in store development, distribution, credit facilities and new technology are likely to accelerate the pace of change.

## Looking ahead to the 1980s

By David Churchill  
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

BRITAIN'S RETAILERS, at present in the midst of the crucial pre-Christmas trading period, are still reeling from the variety and speed of developments in the retail industry which have affected them so far this year.

The essence of successful retailing is supposed to be the management of change—but few retailers would want 1980 to be as volatile a year as 1979 has so far proved to be. The final year in a decade is traditionally supposed to be a watershed year and it seems highly probable that the repercussions of this year's events—such as in forcing mergers between retailers—will be felt well into the 1980s.

The year had started brightly enough for the retail trade, with a relatively good Christmas likely to be followed by the mini-boom conditions that had emerged during 1978. But within weeks the problems had started. The impact of the

severe wintry weather and the various transport disputes, especially the lorry drivers' and rail strikes, brought sharply home to the public just how vulnerable is the retail distribution system, especially for food. The weather, the transport disputes, and the public service workers' strikes also had the effect of making clear to the public the economic problems that faced the UK—with the inevitable slump in the level of consumer confidence.

Apart from the food retailers, who benefited from panic buying by shoppers, most major High Street retailers were badly mauled by the strikes and weather. The Debenhams group, which normally has a marked boost to volume sales and profits from the January bargain sales, is understood to have had sales some £5m below the expected level, which meant around a £1.25m loss to annual profits.

After this had started to the year, the retail trade was then faced with a complete about-turn in demand. The anticipation of the usual Spring Budget led to the traditional pre-Budget buying spree, even though the Budget did not take place. The Conservatives' election victory also boosted consumer demand—as monitored by the monthly Financial Times survey of consumer confidence.

But the dramatic surge in demand came in the few weeks before the June Budget when, for the second time this year, consumers decided to buy in anticipation of higher tax and duty charges in the Budget. As trade sources have since revealed, much of this boom was financed out of the increasing availability of credit facilities rather than out of disposable

income. Nevertheless, sales in June rose by 6 per cent in volume over the previous month, while the total value of these sales were about 20 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Consumer durables such as freezers and colour televisions, proved to be most in demand even though these goods already carried a higher rate of VAT than most others and, therefore, were likely to be relatively less affected by any VAT increases.

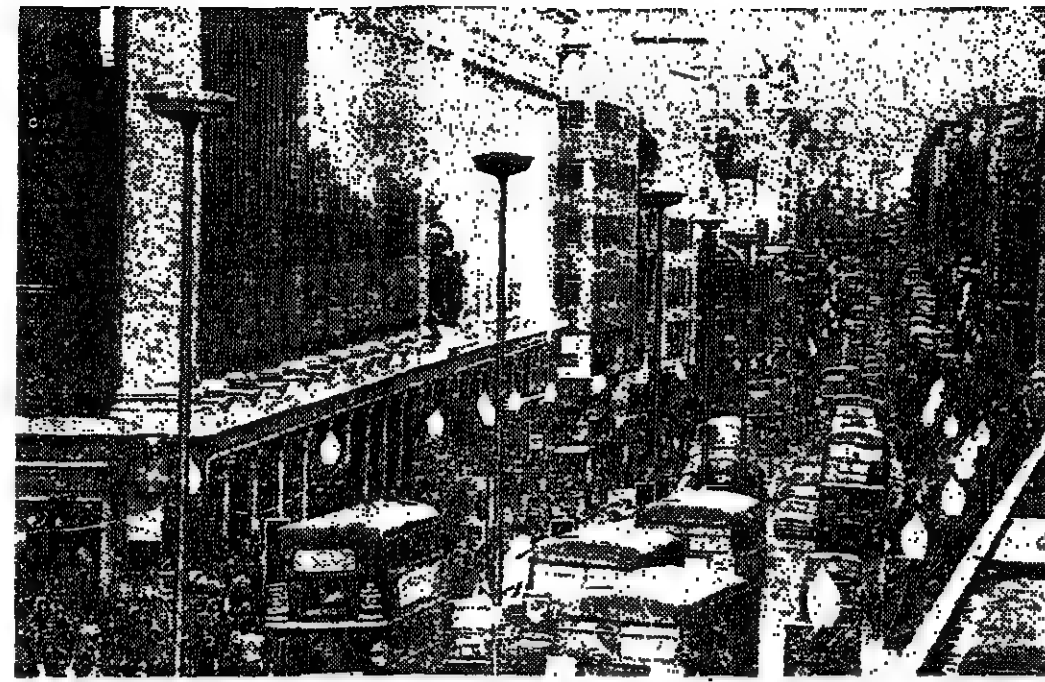
## Sales

However, the dramatic surge in sales came to an abrupt end once the swingeing VAT increase—from 8 to 15 per cent—was announced in the Budget. Sales volume, according to Department of Trade figures, fell by 10 per cent in July as consumers decided they were unable, or unwilling, to pay the higher prices caused by the VAT increase.

Since then, however, there has been a partial recovery in sales volume with the provisional Department of Trade sales volume index for September standing at 111, compared with 120.3 in June and 108.7 in July.

On top of these swings in sales volume caused by political factors, the retail trade has also had to come to terms with two other factors. London retailers in particular have been faced, for the first time in several years, with a shortfall in the tourist trade which they had come to rely on to maintain sales volume through the summer months.

In addition, the independent television dispute badly affected the advertising plans by retailers



Consumers may be preparing for a pre-Christmas spree before sharply cutting back on spending in the New Year. Above: Shoppers throng London's Oxford Street

to stimulate demand during the early Autumn. The impact of blank television screens is illustrated by the fact that Britain's retailers are the largest advertisers in Press and television, according to figures produced by Media Expenditure Analysis Limited. All top ten advertisers are retailers—led by the Boots group—and in fact some 14 out of the top 20 advertisers are retailers.

But the most dramatic response to the toasty-turvy trading conditions came from Marks and Spencer which took the retail

world by surprise when, in early September, it announced an £11m package of price cuts. Marks felt that pressures from rising costs on the one hand, and the prospective downturn in demand on the other, were combining together to put the retail sector under intense pressure. Consequently, Marks felt that immediate action was needed to strengthen its position in the tougher trading times ahead.

Not surprisingly, given the volatility of consumer spending patterns so far this year, there is considerable uncertainty over

the future course of demand. Although the much-vaunted October tax rebates have not so far appeared to have led to a major sales recovery, most retailers expect that they will at least give a psychological boost to sales in the final two months of the year. Consumers, it is also argued, may be preparing for a final pre-Christmas spree—largely financed by credit cards and hire purchase—before sharply cutting back on spending in the New Year.

Stockbrokers Phillips and Drew, for example, says that it

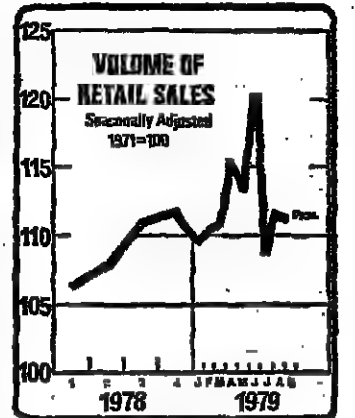
expects "the level of trade to fall sharply between the final quarter of this year and the first three months of next and, although some recovery seems likely during the course of 1980, the year as a whole could show a slight decline in volume."

The official Government view suggests that retailers next year will be faced with a gradually declining inflation rate and little or no growth in real terms in consumer spending.

Apart from the level of consumer demand, the other side in the retailing equation is the level of operating costs which dictate the level of profit margins.

The most important single cost element for retailers is labour costs, which can account for about half of a typical store group's operating costs. In spite of the widespread development of self-service, retailing is still very much a labour intensive industry. Yet the high proportion of women workers and the substantial staff turnover have meant that wages are traditionally low. But some major pay settlements in the retail sector have averaged around 15 per cent in recent months and, with rising inflation, the pressure for higher pay settlements in negotiations still outstanding is mounting.

Apart from labour costs, the other major cost pressures come from higher energy costs and substantial rate rises in prospect. Higher energy prices affects not only heating and lighting in stores, but also the costs of raw materials and distribution. And, as central government support for local authorities is reduced, so the extra funding from the rates becomes more likely.



Yet while the uncertainties over rising costs and falling consumer demand are problems that retailers traditionally have to worry about, there are several other major issues that are likely to accelerate the pace of retail change in the 1980s. Four of these key issues (i.e. store developments, distribution, credit cards and electronics) are highlighted on pages two and three of this survey.

But apart from these and other trading developments, the retail trade also faces the impact of possible Government intervention. Although the Government wants to reduce the effect of consumer protection legislation on small traders, it is also determined to use the new Competition Bill to promote efficiency and end restrictive trade practices.

In particular, retailers are anxiously awaiting the report of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission—due to be published sometime next year—into the whole question of the discounts retailers are able to squeeze out of manufacturers.

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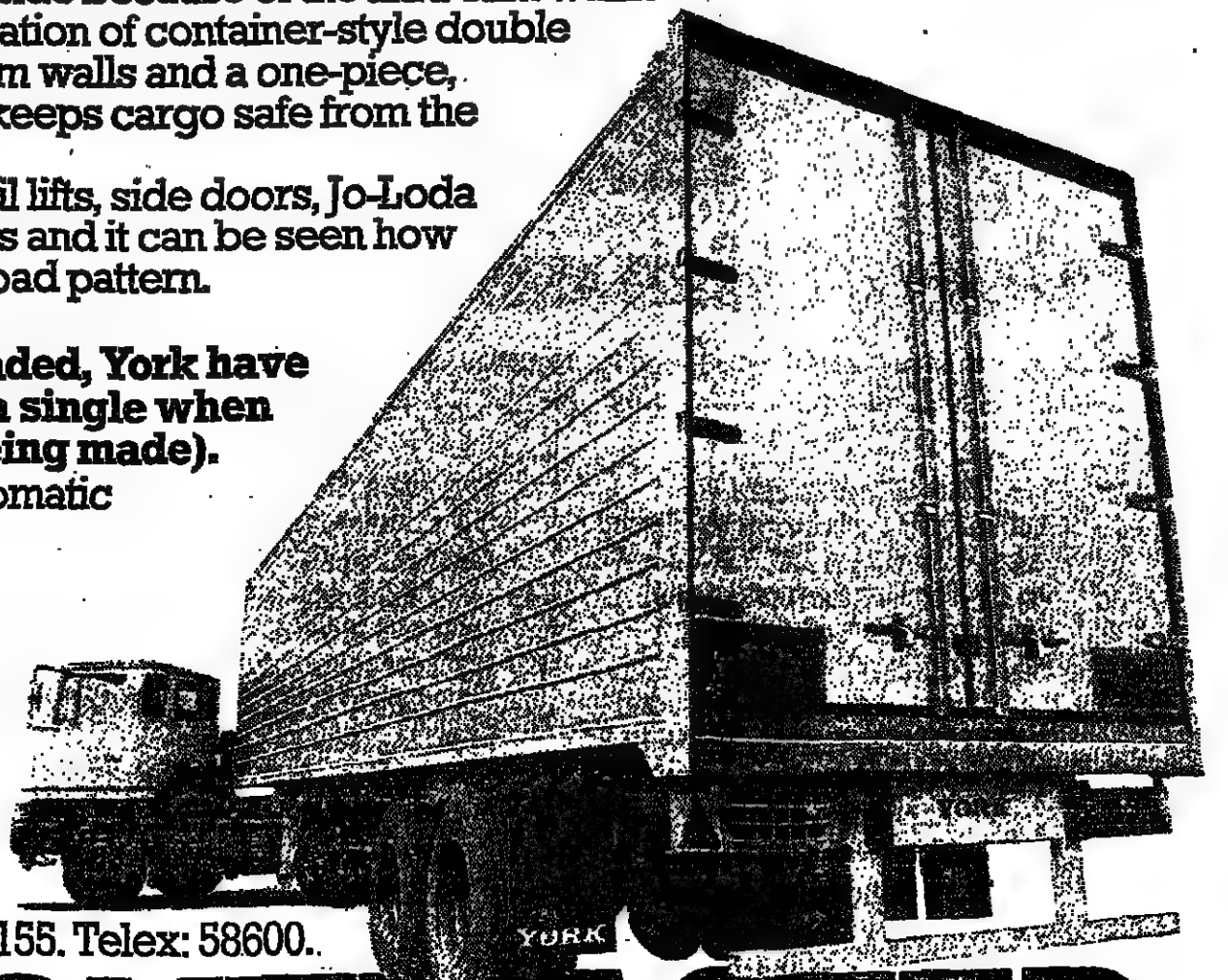
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## RETAILING II

## Growing importance of efficient distribution

CONTINUING PRESSURE on profit margins and changes in the structure of the retailing sector have focused attention on the importance of distribution.

The lorry drivers' dispute last winter served to underline the dependence of retailers on road transport while rising fuel prices have prompted an examination of distribution costs. The degree to which retailers rely on road transport can be seen within the grocery trade.

In tonnage terms, the food, drink and tobacco sector forms a growing proportion of the goods moved in the UK. In 1976 the sector accounted for 17.6 per cent of the tonnage transported and was second only to minerals. More than 99 per cent of the 306m tonnes of food was carried by road.

The growth of the major chain store retailers—largely at the expense of the smaller independent retailers—has had an impact on distribution systems.

Greater concentration has led to a change in the balance of power between the suppliers and retailers with the retailers taking more and more of the responsibility for distribution.

This in turn has led to a growing use of centralised distribution depots. Such systems facilitate the greater use of consolidation (combining products for delivery), have permitted firmer control by the retailer over the movement of goods and led to innovations in the use of computers to control stocks.

The search for economies of scale has led most multiple groups and the co-operative societies to develop centralised distribution systems and the trend is expected to continue.

In 1967, the (then) Supermarket Association estimated that 60 per cent of manufacturers' grocery deliveries were made to retailers' own depots with the remaining 40 per cent delivered direct to branches. Ten years later, estimates suggested that 85 and 70 per cent of grocery stock passes through a centralised warehouse system, provided either by a wholesaler, retailer or professional carrier.

Against the trend towards consolidation and centralised warehousing, some multiples, such as Asda Stores and Carrefour in the grocery sector, operate outlets large enough to justify complete direct delivery and have no depots of their own.

Whatever the distribution system selected, the problems of congestion, delays and delivery restrictions persist for those retailers situated in the High Street.

This has prompted bodies such as the Lorrys and the Environment Committee to undertake studies on improving distribution efficiency. A report published by the latter in March confirmed the view that increased use of consolidation could improve load efficiency and suggested savings could be as much as 50 per cent.

The committee also said that overcoming problems at the point of delivery "could save a substantial proportion of distribution costs. The top of the list of savings came the elimination of queuing which would save

about 12.25 per cent, followed by better access and shop design and the use of larger vehicles (11.25 per cent saving).

In investigating the area of consolidation, the committee found that 46 per cent of the value of deliveries were made in retailers' own vehicles with professional carriers and parcel operators accounting for a further 12 per cent. Manufacturers' vehicles account for 27 per cent of total deliveries but make smaller drops per delivery.

Lower capital investment in transport, economies of scale and the time lag before cost increases were passed on to customers were suggested as the advantages of consolidation. Disadvantages included the loss of direct control over delivery although the committee said this could be overcome by internal re-organisation or by paying for

the services of a specialist distribution company.

The committee said there appeared to be opportunities for many more manufacturers to use distribution companies for part of their deliveries—a finding welcomed by the professional distributors who have been fighting hard to retain their share of the market against independent operators and own account systems.

The shift away from more traditional distribution systems and the change in the structure of retailing has led the professional carriers to provide total specialist services to customers.

SPD, part of the Anglo-Dutch Unilever Group, has for example, diversified from its traditional grocery base and now provides a series of specialist services and a full integrated distribution package to customers including a range

of management and sales support systems involving the use of computer-run accounting and stock control.

The wider use of centralised depots by the multiple retailers and the direct delivery systems used by the "hypermarkets" could lead the smaller retailers to take more advantage of the consolidation facilities offered by the professional carriers like SPD and Cory distribution.

Therefore, while the dominant trend appears to be towards greater concentration and consolidation, it is likely that the individual distribution requirements of retailers in the 1980s will ensure the survival of mixed distribution systems with a continuing role for the specialist professional carrier alongside own-account vehicles and other operators.

Paul Taylor

## A new approach to planning control

RECENT GOVERNMENT initiatives on the inner city, areas, land use and planning controls are providing developers with a new and perhaps more stable framework for the 1980s.

One of the Government's most dramatic initiatives so far has been the decision to set up two new bodies to oversee the development of 8,000 acres of derelict dockland in London and Manchester. These two urban development corporations have wide ranging planning and development powers, similar to those of the new town authorities.

In the other inner city areas the existing partnership machinery is to continue, but Mr. Michael Heseltine, Environment Secretary, has promised that operations will be streamlined to reduce delays.

Taylor Woodrow, the international building and civil engineering group, last month unveiled a £400m plan to build a major shopping, hotel and "freedom" complex on 118 acres of land in London's Surrey Docks.

The plan which unlike a similar scheme proposed earlier this year by Trammell Crow does not call for the aid of Government funds could mark a real start to the redevelopment of London's dockland.

However, Taylor Woodrow has warned that it will not pursue the scheme unless the Government agrees to a relaxation of planning controls.

On the general question of controls, Mr. Heseltine has made it clear that he does not see the main purpose of development control "to frustrate" and has said he wants "to remove the clutter" from the present system.

He has urged developers to appeal directly to him when there is long delay. One positive step he has already taken is to remove duplication from the local government planning system. He intends to make planning

control, with limited exceptions, a district council function, removing shared control from the county councils.

Mr. Heseltine has also urged a speeding up of the preparation of structure plans and will approve local plans in advance of county structure plans if these are delayed.

It remains to be seen whether these measures will reduce planning delays and, perhaps equally important, the differences in speed with which local authorities process planning applications.

Process

Figures released last month by Mr. Tom King, Local Government Minister, show that, although about 70 per cent of planning applications are handled within the statutory eight-week period, this average figure conceals a wide range.

Mr. King, speaking at the annual conference of the National Housing and Town Planning Council, said some local authorities process 90 per cent of their planning applications within eight weeks while others only process 10 per cent in the same time.

"There can be no justification for this disparity," he said. For the small retailers, an assurance from Mr. King that the Government recognises the importance of the small business in the economy must be welcome.

Mr. King said that the planning system had been particularly harsh to small businesses but added that "when small enterprises want to take root, perhaps in existing buildings, in areas which are primarily residential or rural, they should not be prevented from doing so unless there are very strong and specific reasons against it."

The large multiple retailers, particularly the supermarket

operators, will, however, be waiting to see what policy Mr. Heseltine will adopt towards the large out-of-town shopping developments which have become an increasingly important feature of the market, but which previous Government's have generally opposed.

The multiple retailers will also be keen to see the effects of the Government's policies aimed at increasing land availability.

Mr. Heseltine has announced that the Government intends to set up a register of surplus land open to inspection and challenge by the general public and developers.

This measure is aimed particularly at local authorities, Government departments and public bodies which have unused land suitable for development.

In addition, the Government is to repeal the Community Land Act, a move which it is claimed will result in more land becoming available for development at lower prices.

Although it is perhaps too early to assess the full impact of the new approach to development and planning control it is apparent that Mr. Heseltine and his team at the Department of the Environment, are making a strong attempt to disentangle the jungle of restrictions and delays which are at the root of many criticisms of the present system.

The Government's fresh approach has received a warm welcome from developers—despite the intention to introduce charges for planning applications and shift responsibility for enforcing building regulations from local authorities on to developers.

If the Government also succeeds in generating an improved economic climate then retailers will share in the rewards that brings.

Paul Taylor

## Multiples

Against the trend towards consolidation and centralised warehousing, some multiples, such as Asda Stores and Carrefour in the grocery sector, operate outlets large enough to justify complete direct delivery and have no depots of their own.

Whatever the distribution system selected, the problems of congestion, delays and delivery restrictions persist for those retailers situated in the High Street.

This has prompted bodies such as the Lorrys and the Environment Committee to undertake studies on improving distribution efficiency. A report published by the latter in March confirmed the view that increased use of consolidation could improve load efficiency and suggested savings could be as much as 50 per cent.

The committee also said that overcoming problems at the point of delivery "could save a substantial proportion of distribution costs. The top of the list of savings came the elimination of queuing which would save

about 12.25 per cent, followed by better access and shop design and the use of larger vehicles (11.25 per cent saving).

In investigating the area of consolidation, the committee found that 46 per cent of the value of deliveries were made in retailers' own vehicles with professional carriers and parcel operators accounting for a further 12 per cent. Manufacturers' vehicles account for 27 per cent of total deliveries but make smaller drops per delivery.

Lower capital investment in transport, economies of scale and the time lag before cost increases were passed on to customers were suggested as the advantages of consolidation. Disadvantages included the loss of direct control over delivery although the committee said this could be overcome by internal re-organisation or by paying for

the services of a specialist distribution company.

The committee said there appeared to be opportunities for many more manufacturers to use distribution companies for part of their deliveries—a finding welcomed by the professional distributors who have been fighting hard to retain their share of the market against independent operators and own account systems.

The shift away from more traditional distribution systems and the change in the structure of retailing has led the professional carriers to provide total specialist services to customers.

SPD, part of the Anglo-Dutch Unilever Group, has for example, diversified from its traditional grocery base and now provides a series of specialist services and a full integrated distribution package to customers including a range

of management and sales support systems involving the use of computer-run accounting and stock control.

The wider use of centralised depots by the multiple retailers and the direct delivery systems used by the "hypermarkets" could lead the smaller retailers to take more advantage of the consolidation facilities offered by the professional carriers like SPD and Cory distribution.

Therefore, while the dominant trend appears to be towards greater concentration and consolidation, it is likely that the individual distribution requirements of retailers in the 1980s will ensure the survival of mixed distribution systems with a continuing role for the specialist professional carrier alongside own-account vehicles and other operators.

Paul Taylor

## Complex problem for unions

HARD ON the heels of Britain's engineering workers, around 130,000 staff in supermarkets have just won a reduction of one hour in their working week to 39 hours—and, furthermore, without any resort to industrial action.

The reduction, which is accompanied by a two-stage wage settlement, the first part of which comes into effect today, will be implemented from next November—one year earlier than the 39-hour week which the engineering workers achieved after 10 weeks of intermittent disruption.

The pleasure which the new deal for supermarket workers has given was noticeable in the Manchester headquarters of the Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers, a numerically large—480,000-members—but historically, somewhat weak body, labouring in one of the most difficult areas for union recruitment.

The main body representing shopworkers of all kinds, USDAW, has had to contend with the difficulties posed by the very diffuse nature of retailing. The estimated 2m workers in UK retailing are spread throughout literally scores of thousands of establishments, some employing only two or three people. Much of the labour force is female and part-time and turnover of staff is often very high. The cost of servicing as well as recruiting such a membership is much higher than in the case with factory workers who are likely to be found in much larger units.

With around one-third of its members coming from manufacturing activities—mostly food production—USDAW's retail membership at around 270,000 is thus well short of the potential. Even within its retailing membership, around half are accounted for by the co-operative societies with which USDAW has had long links and which have granted it one of its few closed shops.

The new agreement for supermarket workers is a sign, however, that circumstances may now be changing. One of the most important developments in post-war retailing has been the concentrating of activity in the hands of fewer of the larger organisations which now dominate the high streets up and down the country.

The trend has been particularly strong in food retailing where a handful of larger store groups—Tesco, Sainsbury, Fine Fare, International and Safeway—dominate grocery sales. Significantly, it is in supermarkets where USDAW has been growing most rapidly, and partly in response to the growing unionisation of their members, most of the big groups (though not Sainsbury's) now negotiate with USDAW through their own trade association, the Multiple Food Retailers' Association.

It is this organisation which has now conceded the 39-hour week for supermarket

workers. Outside food retailing, USDAW—which has a relatively clear run from other unions in recruiting shop workers—has been seeking to build up its membership in the big High Street chain stores, such as Boots and Woolworth and it has managed to secure recognition as the main bargaining unit for staff from a number of store groups.

Its recruitment campaigns have included extensive use of newspaper poster, and transport advertising sites, and even local radio in Nottingham where Boots has its headquarters.

Another factor which seems certain to give a continuing impetus to union recruitment throughout retailing is the generally low wage levels. The new agreement with supermarket operators takes pay for the lowest grades—such as shelf packers—up from a very low £42.30 per week to a still fairly low £55 a week in two stages. Pay in the non-food sector tends to be somewhat higher and in some branches of retailing, there is scope for further earnings through commission. Even so, minima are still only around £50 in sectors, such as menswear.

According to USDAW officials, there is plenty of evidence, too, that the minima laid down by the retailing wages councils are often not paid by smaller establishments. This usually comes to light when a member of staff, probably in a single branch establishment, decides to try and improve his own lot

by seeking out union membership. The new challenge which the union will have to face in the next decade is posed by changes in retailing itself—changes which could prove to be as revolutionary as the post-war switch from corner store to supermarket shopping.

New electronic systems, now being introduced, will affect a variety of retailing operations from the need to price goods individually with sticky tags to stock control, re-ordering and warehousing. As a result, the back-up staff now required in supermarkets and other big volume outlets could be drastically cut.

Changes

Further into the future, the very nature of shopping could change. Instead of selecting goods from shelves, customers may, by the end of the century, be using a keying system to indicate the products they want, which will then be taken out of the store assembled, packed for loading into the family car. Instead of having to queue at the check-out the customer would simply have his bank account debited.

Such systems are clearly a long way off. The very possibility of such changes could be motivating during the rest of the century the spread of unionisation within retailing.

Rhys David



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## RETAILING III

## Big expansion in credit facilities

THE SPEED with which the retail trade have introduced its own credit card facilities over the past year, is a prime example of the trade's ability to cope with change and react quickly to new developments—the hallmark of a successful retailer.

Even so, retailers' alacrity in embracing "plastic money" came as a surprise to many people. But once the floodgates had been opened by one or two major retailers, it was inevitable that the bandwagon effect would ensure that the trickle of available credit cards would soon become a flood.

For a number of years, menswear retailers such as Burtons and Hepworths have offered customers their own credit card type of facility. Department stores also have traditionally offered their customers special credit facilities. But now virtually every major High Street trader operates some form of credit facility for customers.

During the past year, stores such as Marks and Spencer, Boots, Tesco, Woolworths, Habitat, Dixons, and the Co-op, have all launched their own credit facilities, albeit under the auspices of one of the large clearing banks or financial institutions.

The retail credit card facility that has proved the most popular with retailers—and customers as well—is the budget account card. Under this system the card holding shopper is able to borrow up to some multiple of an agreed monthly sum.

The minimum payment is usually at least £5—and there is often a maximum payment as well—and customers are allowed, for example, 24 times this amount in credit. Customers agree to pay off a certain amount each month—but there is nothing to stop customers paying off the whole amount.

With most cards interest is charged on a fixed date each month on the amount owed at

the time. With a few cards the monthly interest is worked out on the amount owed each day.

Marks and Spencer operates a different credit system in that, instead of signing a sales voucher when using a credit card, the customer has to write out a cheque from a special cheque book which has cheques already made payable to Marks and Spencer. Customers receive an identity card which is used when making a purchase, in the same way as a cheque guarantee card is used.

The importance of the expansion of credit facilities by retailers—and one of the main reasons for the speed of their introduction this year—is that they can help mitigate any fall in consumer demand as disposable income is cut by the pending economic recession.

Retailers have flirted for some years with the traditional credit cards, such as Access and Barclaycard, but have held back from wholeheartedly embracing them because of a reluctance to pay the commission charged to the store by the card companies on every transaction. In addition, the fact that general credit cards do not exclusively link the cardholder to a particular store. (Conversely, this is one of the prime attractions of general credit cards to many shoppers.)

The importance of credit cards in consumers' spending patterns was shown by figures produced by the AGB research company. These show that in the few days between this year's announcement of higher VAT rates and the implementation of these new rates in the shops, it was the credit card holders who were able to take advantage of the position to buy goods on credit at the lower VAT prices.

AGB says that between June 15 and 17, expenditure by credit card and retail store account holders were more than twice what would be expected if the buying patterns had been normal.

The major credit card companies were aware of this dilemma facing retailers, in that they did not want to wholeheartedly embrace traditional credit cards, but at the same time saw the need for extra credit facilities to bolster sales during a recession.

The credit card companies—and other financial organisations—realised that the market potential lay in providing the operational expertise for retailers' own credit cards. Companies that already operated



Electronic check-out system: an IBM 3653 point-of-sale terminal in use at British Home Stores, Wood Green, London

credit cards could offer a lower cost (because overheads could be more widely spread) than retailers who operated their own scheme. One of the drawbacks of previous self-financed in-store credit schemes—such as operated by department stores—was that they were expensive to operate, since they tied up working capital.

The impact of credit card facilities becoming widely available at an economic cost was felt in three main ways. First, it led to their introduction in retail operations such as Woolworths which were traditionally regarded as down-market retail outlets.

Second, it enabled small retail chains—such as the Snox menswear chain—to offer their own credit facilities.

And, third, it helped persuade the supermarket groups to allow the use of credit cards for the purchase of food and drink. Previously, the supermarket chains had steadfastly maintained that it would be a mistake to allow food and drink to be bought on credit on the basis that once these were consumed, there was nothing for the credit company to repossess if payment were withheld.

However, the experience over years of operation by the big credit card companies about the incidence of bad debts finally

overcame such objections. It was found from experience that the type of purchase was not directly related to bad debts.

Companies providing retailers' credit schemes fall into two main groups: the clearing banks or their offshoots, and financial institutions.

Barclaycard was set up just over a year ago as the retail credit arm of Barclaycard. Barclaycard has some 25 schemes in operation at the moment, ranging from the menswear chain Dunn and Co., through to Habitat and International Stores.

Access, unlike Barclaycard, does not have a direct offshoot responsible for retailers' credit cards. Instead, each of the major banks which jointly own Access are able to negotiate with retailers to provide credit facilities, which are then actually implemented through the Access facilities.

Apart from the clearing banks, other companies involved in the provision of retail credit facilities include the Bradford-based Unicredit Finance, a subsidiary of the Provident Financial Group. The Woolworth's credit card scheme is one of Unicredit's major clients.

Citibank Trust operates the Marks and Spencer credit scheme.

David Churchill

## Electronic revolution in the High Street

WHILE MUCH attention within the retail trade has recently been focused on the imminent introduction of laser-scanning electronic check-outs in the grocery retailing sector, the development of sophisticated electronic technology is also having widespread repercussions throughout the whole retail sector.

The potential benefits to be achieved from the new technology has, in fact, led to suggestions that the introduction of new electronic checkouts will do more than just offer a more efficient form of traditional tills; it is argued that the degree of management information and stock control that can be achieved with the use of electronic equipment will be as great a revolution in the High Street as the introduction of self-service marketing techniques in the 1950s and 1960s.

The new systems have the potential to completely change the face of retailing management, enabling stock control procedures to incorporate at least daily—if not more frequent—stock level reports. Armed with such up-to-the-minute information, the store's management will be able to respond to sudden surges in demand for particular products, or identify areas where sales are weakest and not earning enough.

The pending electronic check-out revolution in the High Street will also be helped by retailers' need to replace the checkout systems they introduced for decimalisation in 1971.

There are basically three levels of sophistication in the new computerised electronic systems available to retailers.

First, there are the electronic units that perform almost exactly the same work as the electro-mechanical units they are due to replace. The manufacturer has simply replaced the internal, electro-mechanical components with modern electronic ones. Prices, therefore, can vary enormously according to whether the unit is needed to serve only a few customers a day, or needs to stand up to the pounding received at a busy supermarket checkout.

At a more sophisticated level are the so-called "stand alone data capture units." These perform all the normal functions of a cash register, but also record information about sales on an internal magnetic tape cassette which can be removed at the end of each day, or once a week, and taken away for computer processing.

At the top-end of the market are the fully computer-controlled systems which incorporate laser-scanning. These have electronic units at each checkout controlled by mini-computer in the store or, in some cases, by a remote computer connected to the store by a telecommunications link. Such systems are considerably more flexible and have many more facilities than the stand-alone units.

Numerous benefits of the new electronic cash registers are claimed by manufacturers, retailers, and trade specialists. These benefits include ease of operation, fewer errors, greater security features, more flexibility, easier maintenance, and modern styling.

## Potential

But it is in the field of stock control that many companies see the greatest potential, especially in grocery retailing. The problems of ensuring that sufficient stocks are available in a large supermarket—and keeping track of what happens to stocks within a store—probably represents the greatest headache for supermarket management. The laser-scanning system allied to a computerised electronic checkout enables complete and accurate stock information to be readily available.

The laser-scanning system involves a low-power laser beam reading a "bar code" printed on the label of a grocery product. This "bar code"—a series of short lines of varying thicknesses—represents a unique 13-digit number given to each product by a central body, the Article Number Association.

At the cash desk, the cashier passes each item over the scanner built into the checkout which reads the bar-code and then transmits the information to the in-store computer. The current price of the item in that store is then fed back by the computer to the checkout where it, and a description of the item, appears on a visual display panel next to the cash register.

Simultaneously, the information is listed automatically on the till receipt, which prints both the name of the item and the price and thus enables the shopper to see exactly what each item cost.

The first operation laser-scanning system was launched last month at the Key Markets superstore at Spalding in Lin-

colnshire. Tesco, J. Sainsbury, International Stores, and others all plan to launch similar operational systems early next year, although widespread implementation is still likely to take two to three years.

In the non-food retailing sector, a number of major stores groups are planning the introduction of sophisticated electronic checkouts. British Home Stores, for example, recently placed an order for 2,000 IBM electronic checkouts following the success of a trial system at BHS's Wood Green store in North London. Sir Jack Callard, BHS chairman, said in the company's last annual report that introduction of the new equipment was "a prime feature in the future development of the business."

IBM has emerged as one of the main suppliers of the new electronic systems for use in retail outlets. It has three main systems on offer: the 3650

retail system; the 3660 super-market system; and its new 5860 retail system. The 3650 system, for example, consists of a point-of-sale terminal, a merchandise ticket encoder, a visual display-based purchase order/receiving terminal, and a powerful controller that links the shop's retail system with a main computer.

Although the High Street revolution promised by electronic technology now looks increasingly imminent, it has taken a long time to finally arrive. The potential benefits of electronic, computerised store control were first mooted in the 1950s and some experimental installations were operating in the U.S. in the 1960s. But the technology developments in the 1970s have laid the way for the full implementation of the electronic revolution during the next decade.

D.C.

## RETAILING POWER



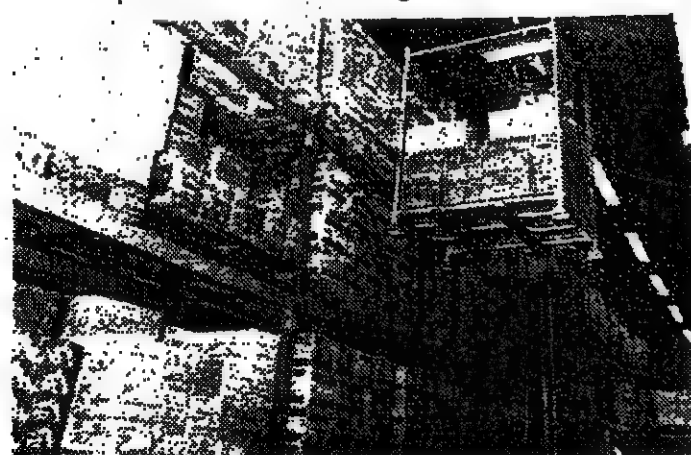
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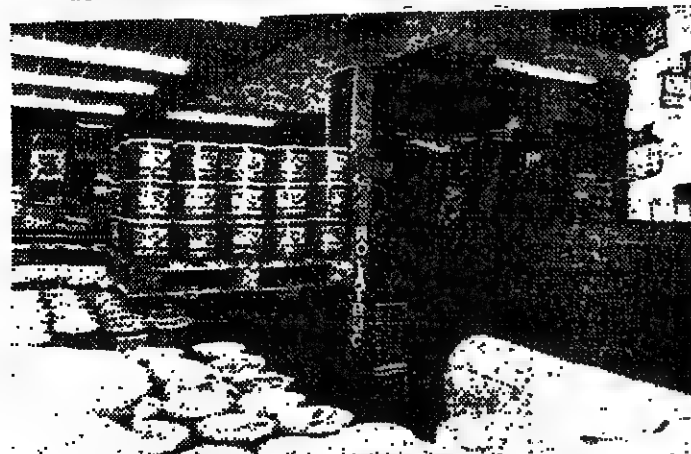
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## UK store thefts top £700m a year

THE RETAIL trade has, for some time now, begun to look more seriously at the problem euphemistically described as "shrinkage"—but more accurately known as theft—either by staff or customers. The impetus to deal with this problem has not arisen from any surge of moral rectitude, however, but from the harsh commercial reality that retailers can no longer afford to lose between 2 to 3 per cent of their turnover every year because of theft.

The pressure on retailers' operating costs during the past two years seems certain to intensify in the difficult trading times ahead and, with consumer demand likely to be hit by the economic recession, retailers will find it increasingly difficult to pass on the costs of theft to customers in the form of higher prices.

Estimates suggest that the overall loss to retailers from staff and customer theft at more than £700m, although many within the trade acknowledge that the true figure could be more than twice that amount. Retailers declare that the losses represent the equivalent of a Great Train Robbery every 36 hours.

Put another way, two to three per cent "theft tax"—as much as grocery retailers, for example, earn in net profit margins—is paid by honest customers in the form of higher prices.

Home Office figures suggest that for every £1 "lost" by a retailer, about 30p is genuine wastage, 30p is through shoplifting, and the rest through staff theft.

Last year, some 203,643 shoplifting offences were reported to the police—a fall of some 6.5 per cent over the previous year—yet many shoplifters are not caught and many more cases go unreported. Although many retailers in the past have paid lip service to the concept of preventing shoplifting, there seems little doubt that the growth of self-service methods and other marketing techniques have made shoplifting easier.

Putting umbrellas next to the door on a rainy day because that is where they "sell best" is perhaps good sales practice—but poor security. Yet theft losses have to be quite high to

the display to a more secure place. The growth in the size of store groups and multiple chains has also enabled shoplifters to rationalise their crime by considering the theft as being against a large, impersonal company, rather than against an individual.

Many retailers, moreover, have been reluctant to prosecute in every case of theft because of the amount of management time that can be lost in attending a court case, or because of the bad publicity attached to prosecuting children or old age pensioners. But theft by children and young people is the fastest growing crime area for retailers.

A Home Office report on shoplifting notes that few shoplifters will bother with devices such as concealed pockets and false-bottomed shopping bags, which tend to hit the headlines when exposed. Most rely, however, on working quickly, using a moment's inattention by staff to allow them to slip an article into a pocket or open bag.

One of the leading security organisations, Group Four, has estimated that about one in every 50 people going into a supermarket will steal, on average, £1.80 every time. In a department store, one in a 100 will steal £4 on average.

Since retailers are most unlikely to forsake modern marketing techniques solely in the interests of security, a balance has to be struck between allowing honest customers to buy goods as cheaply and conveniently as possible—and also avoiding the encouragement of crime.

The biggest deterrent to shoplifting is simply being seen. Shops whose staff are alert to the practice are the sort of shop that shoplifters tend to avoid. Staff training is thus an important part of the measures that can be taken—as is total management commitment to reducing shoplifting. Technical devices such as television monitors and convex mirrors can also make a big contribution to cutting down thefts, as several store groups have proved.

Although the actual number of thefts by staff reported to the police rose by only just over 3 per cent last year to 32,175—compared with the 31,000 shop-

lifting cases reported—the amounts lost by staff pilfering are proportionately much higher. The average value of employee theft is £827, whereas the average overall for shoplifting is only £19.

The favourite target for dishonest staff, according to the Home Office report, is the cash register with under-ringing the most frequently used technique.

A number of major retailers, including Marks and Spencer, came together in 1977 to form the Association for the Prevention of Theft in Shops which acts as a pressure group to educate retailers and the public about the consequences of the growth in shop thefts.

Baroness Phillips, the Association's director, says: "Our objectives will have been achieved when, and if, it is acknowledged in a changed climate of opinion that theft by either customers or staff is wrong on moral and economic grounds."

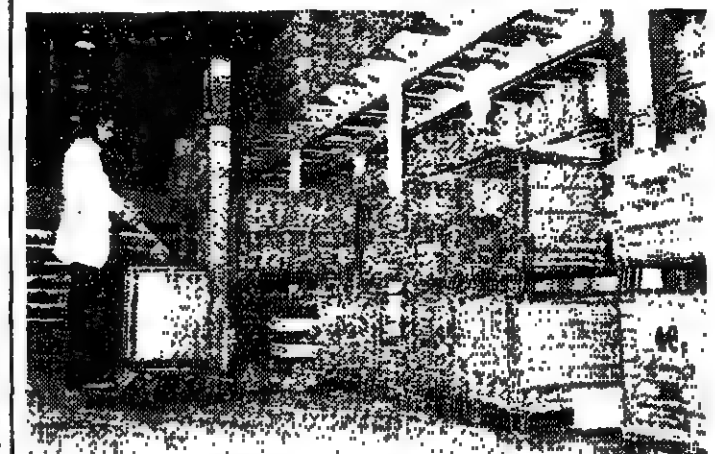
To help achieve the change in opinion, the association is lobbying educationalists, youth groups, trade unions, the churches, media, and social services. It is also co-operating with embassies, high commissions, and tourist Boards to ensure that overseas visitors to Britain are made fully aware of the UK retailing system and the penalties for theft. Tourists, who form a high proportion of shoplifters in the summer months, often claim to be confused and overwhelmed by the temptation offered by self-service selections.

The association's other chief role is to organise retailers to co-operate more with one another and to keep them informed of new anti-theft devices. Greater co-operation among retailers in guarding against groups of professional shoplifters and "blitzes" in certain areas where police and security staff mount extensive campaigns against theft, have achieved significant success in some areas.

The big test, however, of the effectiveness of the new, tough approach to store theft will come during the next few weeks as stores become crowded in the traditional pre-Christmas spending spree.

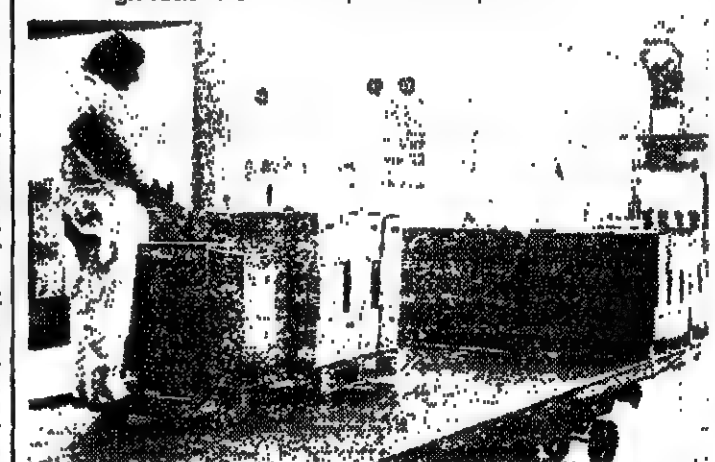
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## RETAILING IV

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Prospects in the 1980s for major sectors of the retailing industry are highlighted here and on the following page.

## Superstore battle ahead

## FOOD SECTOR

ALTHOUGH THE recent prolonged ITV dispute robbed grocery retailers of their normal quota of television advertising in launching their traditional autumn promotional campaigns, more than one food retailer probably expressed a sigh of relief at the blank television screens.

The dispute meant that any renewed attempt by Tesco, J. Sainsbury, or one of the other leading multiples to spark off another round of extensive price-cutting, with the full glare

of publicity, was strictly limited. But, paradoxically, the absence of television advertising meant that retailers had some of the extra resources needed to finance a new price war if they had wanted. Some, like Tesco, decided to use the money "saved" by the lack of television advertising to reduce prices on non-food items such as clothing, whose sales had slumped in the summer and early autumn. Tesco says it allocated £1m that would have gone into television advertising to cut prices in this way.

The fact that no serious attempt was made to start a new food price war shows how far the hostilities of the past few years are now largely held in check.

These hostilities broke out in 1977 when Tesco decided to make a major attempt to boost its sales volume by cutting prices. The theory was that by cutting prices (and profit margins, as well), the stores could generate sufficient extra volume to cover the lost profits. But, in the longer term, if the extra volume can be maintained after the initial price-cutting offensive, then a return to more realistic prices and profit margins will mean substantially higher profits.

Tesco, and to a large extent

J. Sainsbury, have both been extremely successful in pursuing this strategy during the past two years. The other major multiples have been forced to follow suit and had to compete fiercely to hold their market share. The losers, therefore, have been the smaller multiple chains and the numerous small grocery stores.

## Sales

With their higher volume sales, Tesco and Sainsbury have been able to maintain their grip on the market and prevent any significant counter-offensives being fought. Tesco and Sainsbury can afford to keep prices and margins at a low level since they have the volume sales to offset the same sales volume, and their margins and profitability under increasing pressure.

In addition, even if a major multiple could afford another price-cutting operation at present, it is doubtful if it would have the same effect as the Sainsbury or Tesco campaigns. However, glibly some supermarket chiefs may expect the public to be, there is a limit to how far they are willing to go to claim that the local store is "the cheapest shop around."

While prices will continue to remain competitive in the early 1980s, the real issue over which the continuing High Street war will be fought will be the battle for superstore development. The major multiples may not be able to launch another price-cutting offensive in the short term but, in the longer term, they can achieve the same result by boosting volume through the expansion of store selling space.

The significance of the superstores to the multiples was shown by the fact that last year saw a rapid spate of openings of superstores.

Yet, in spite of the seemingly inexorable trend towards large store developments, there seems likely to be a place for the small corner-store type of grocery retailer in the next decade. Many retail experts expect that these stores will survive by charging higher prices for the convenience they offer of local shopping and being open later.

However, the losers in the UK will be the small scale superstores which can offer neither the volume sales to be profitable nor the convenience of the corner shop.

David Churchill



A £5m development, opening today—Aldersley, free-standing department store in purpose-built, free-standing department store in Chatham High Street.

## Fairly flat outlook

## THE MULTIPLES

MANAGERS OF the high street multiple chains, peering into crystal balls in an attempt to predict next year's trading environment are unlikely to find anything to make them rush out and spend their latest tax rebates on champagne—assuming, that is, their crystal balls are revealing a similar picture to some of the City's top retailing analysts.

A straw poll of stockbrokers, Kemp, Goss, Messel and Capel-Cure Myers reveals a fairly flat outlook for the major chains.

The level of consumer spending is obviously of paramount importance to prospects. All the brokers agree that sales volume is unlikely to show any growth in 1980. Undoubtedly there will be monthly variations, in particular the first quarter should look good against last year's snow-bound, strike-bound high streets.

Price inflation, on the other hand, could be running around 16 per cent or so which is not bad news as far as the retailers are concerned. But cost inflation could more than eat into sales growth and after rising rents, rates and wages take their bite the average rate of profit growth in the high street is likely to be little more than 10 per cent in 1980-81 (many of the companies' financial years start around February/March).

While this is a wide generalisation, the larger the retail chain the harder it is for the group to effectively buck the overall trend. So the outlook for the multiples appears to be unimpressive.

In the short term a reasonably good Christmas trading period looks probable, depending on how much of the tax rebate finds its way to the retailer and how much to the Post Office telephone account.

The other important factor is the long-term effect of the recent Marks and Spencer price cuts. At the end of August M & S announced that it was cutting £11m off prices—its first major campaign since the early 'sixties. Admittedly, M & S has plenty of muscle and it does not hesitate in using it. Around £5m of the cuts will be financed at the expense of its suppliers.

The scaremongers warned that that it was the start of a price war comparable to the Tesco-inspired battle in the

food sector of a couple of years ago. Will others retaliate by cutting prices? Probably not, in the doubt the various management camps will be keeping a wary eye on the opposition, and specific campaigns during the course of the next 12 months cannot be ruled out.

Across the street, BHS is sorting itself out after the effects of one price war—the supermarket battle, which in the company's food retailing operations that accounted for a quarter of sales. BHS has restructured its food department in a move away from the "fresh food, counter service image," and has closed some of its smaller food operations.

Replacing food sales are with higher margin non-food items has enabled BHS to regain some of its momentum as recent profit figures show. BHS made the M & S improvement look definitely pedestrian but, though tempting, it is not fair to compare the two groups.

The phasing out of food operations has also been one of the driving forces behind F. W. Woolworth's buoyant profit performance. The move towards clothing is encouraging BHS to the end of its current financial year (January 57) could account for a tenth of sales.

## Doubts

Yet, even though the company has made considerable efforts to change its image—space modernisation and a wider product range—there always appear to be nagging doubts. For example, in the quarter covering the pre-budget spending boom, sales increased by just 7.40 per cent. Nevertheless, "Woolies" now seems less vulnerable to any pressures on the sector which may come in 1980.

In another area—Books—BHS is radically different from all the other multiples mentioned, in that it has a very significant industrialist—accounting for some two-thirds of profits. On the retailing side, Books will not doubt be continuing its policy of a shift towards large stores. It is expected to double its expansion of new selling area to 6 per cent this year. Yet Books is a "mature" business and its sales are open to competition from newcomers, while its expansion into large units selling records, hi-fi and a large range of photographic equipment, is taking it into highly competitive areas which could create more problems for the company.

Terry Gannell



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## THE CO-OPERATIVES

THE CO-OPERATIVE retail societies represent not only the biggest retailing organisation in Britain—with total sales last year in excess of £30m—but also one of the biggest retailers.

The co-ops share of total retail sales has slipped back from 7.1 per cent three years ago to 6.8 per cent last year. Although similar declines have in the past been reversed by the co-ops, there is a growing feeling within the movement that retail societies will find it difficult to recover lost ground in the tougher trading conditions likely in the early part of the next decade.

The degree of concern now being shown within the movement itself is reflected in the current top-level talks about the formation of a national co-op trading organisation to be called "Co-op Great Britain."

Even those who acknowledge the need for change within the movement give this latest reorganisation scheme little chance of coming about.

The co-ops' main weakness—its lack of a central retailing organisation—is also, paradoxically, one of its main strengths. The co-op movement was created and developed very much along the lines of being a retail movement at local level. The co-op still has some 10,600

customer-members who own and belong to the 201 retail societies throughout the UK.

This customer involvement is reflected in the co-ops' current advertising theme—"Your caring, sharing co-op." The movement is rightly proud of its tradition of providing a service to all types of consumer—hence its retailing activities ranging from the smallest corner shop to the largest superstore. But it is difficult to reconcile the practice of 201 fiercely independent retail societies, each free to pursue its own retailing strategy, with the reality of the fierce competition in the High Street.

## Independence

Symptomatic of the individual societies' independence is that fact that the retail societies only buy about two-thirds of their supplies from the Co-operative Wholesale Society, the manufacturing and wholesaling organisation set up and owned by the societies to provide their supplies.

It is rather as though each Tesco or Sainsbury store was able to buy supplies from whom ever it liked and then pursue its own trading policy. One of the basic problems of such a massive organisation as the Co-op (which in the past has been relatively successful) is how to adapt to the changing retail world. In the past, the lack of a nationally organised aggressive competition meant that the inherent inefficiencies in the co-op's structure were not

exposed. But during the past decade, the co-ops have faced stiff competition in every retailing area.

In food retailing, for example, the co-ops have, at around 18 per cent, the largest share of the packaged grocery market. But this share has been gradually declining during the past two years of fierce price competition. During this time, Tesco's market share has jumped from 8 to 14 per cent. Some market analysts expect that within the next two years the unthinkable will happen and Tesco could overtake the co-op, in terms of market share.

To its credit, the co-ops have tried to fight back with a massive superstore development programme. But even though it is now the second largest superstore operator in the country, this expansion in store size is still insufficient to compensate for the many thousands of small uneconomic stores the societies are reluctant to close down. Many societies argue that they have a duty to their customers to continue to provide small shops as well as large.

But this policy has meant a drain on the movement's financial resources, so that the money set aside for capital investment has failed to keep pace with the necessary level of expenditure.

The dilemma remains, therefore, for the co-ops: how to reconcile commercialism with co-operation?

D.C.

## A boom sector—but for how long?

## FOOTWEAR

UNLIKE THE manufacturing sector, which has been squeezed by high costs and acute overseas competition, footwear retailing in the UK has been experiencing boom times over the past year or so.

The sector has probably benefited more than any other from the high level of consumer spending, although there are signs now that demand has peaked—and could slump dramatically.

## Buoyant

But the pattern to date has been distinctly buoyant. Traditionally, the British public has bought fewer shoes than their industrial neighbours—two pairs a year for men and five or six pairs a year for women.

This has shown a marked improvement, thanks to increasing affluence and changing fashions. Apart from buying more leisure shoes, the public are generally trading up, notably in favour of leather uppers.

There has also been a noticeable increase in the sales of children's shoes as more parents become aware of the campaigns on health, education, while more people are choosing to replace footwear rather than repair them.

This has combined to give an increase in retail sales of a fifth over the past 12 months, with sales volume showing a gain of roughly a tenth.

According to the British Footwear Manufacturers' Federation, the lion's share of the increase has gone to the multiples where sales have jumped by almost a quarter. The independents have registered a near-16 per cent increase, while shoe sales through the co-operatives have risen by almost a tenth.

One of the most important events in the industry during the past 18 months was the Price Commission's report, in 1978, asking retailers to cut their trading margins. This was done on a voluntary basis, but the effect on retail sales was only marginal.

Of greater importance has been the sharp rise in leather prices. Over the 12 months to August, these have jumped by roughly 57 per cent, rises which must eventually filter through to the customer.

This and the VAT increases causes many observers to be apprehensive about the future, caution which is echoed by Mr. Nicholas Calvert of the BFMA.

He believes that while tax rebates might give a short-term fillip, the immediate future is also clouded by telephone bill arrears and the proposed increase in mortgages from January.

While volume will obviously suffer, it is not yet certain whether this will outweigh the effect on sales of a higher inflation rate. August sales, according to BFMA statistics, show a near 10 per cent drop over the previous month.

Certainly, any consumer resistance will have to be countered by cuts in retail prices and this will put pressure on profit margins. After two good years of trading, the footwear retailing sector looks as if it is entering a difficult period.

Arnold Kransdorff

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## RETAILING V

## Still confident despite vulnerable position

## DEPARTMENT STORES

DEPARTMENT STORES, which are traditionally vulnerable to economic recession and high inflation, are batten down the hatches to prepare for the expected stormy trading weather ahead.

Selfridge's, for example, recently made clear its intention of pulling out of its direct selling mail order business — a sector that was clearly becoming over-crowded and therefore uneconomical — to concentrate all its management resources on maintaining its sales volume in the early 1980s.

All the department store groups are determined to ensure that the hard-fought campaigns of the 1970s — when the decline of the previous two decades was halted and the mid-seventies economic recession overcame — are not wasted.

It was in the two decades up

to the early 'seventies that the department stores — traditionally the flagship of British retailing — finally looked as if they might finally fulfil the predictions and become an outmoded form of retailing. But the sheer trading bulk of the 800 or so department stores scattered throughout Britain enabled the sector to hold on and begin to fight back in the early 'seventies.

The recovery in the fortunes of the department stores sector was not achieved by any radical retailing formulae but by the application of modern retailing techniques to a sector that had traditionally spurned such methods. Thus, the department stores tightened up on their management controls and reorganised their market image. Central buying was strengthened to ensure that the largest discounts were "obtained", thus enabling prices to be more aggressively price-cutting multiples.

At the same time, the large number of lines stocked by department stores were reduced, without losing their traditional advantage of wider stocks than

that carried by smaller retail outlets.

The department stores also extended their product ranges in some areas, such as sports and leisure goods and children's clothes, at the expense of traditional areas, such as haberdashery, which were in decline. The stores also invested heavily in improving their image by modernisation, introducing more self-service, and generally brightening-up the trading areas. Other stores have introduced own-label lines to improve customer loyalty.

## Result

The result of all this activity was that, by 1973, the department stores were enjoying their highest penetration of the total retail market for more than 20 years, with a 5.1 per cent market share compared with 4.6 per cent in the mid-sixties. However, the department stores were then caught by the mid-1970s recession and price inflation — which caused consumers to trade down to more obvious discount-type stores.

Thus, department stores' market share slipped back to 4.9 per cent in 1976, from which it did not recover until the improved trading conditions last year to reach 5 per cent.

The high degree of concentration, which has been a marked characteristic of the department store sector since the war, has continued. The largest five groups now account for about three-quarters of the trade, compared with 65 per cent in 1970.

The leading department stores group is the House of Fraser, with about 29 per cent of the sector's turnover, followed by the Debenhams group, with 19 per cent, and the John Lewis Partnership with 14 per cent.

Although the market prospects for department stores are far from rosy if the expected slump in consumer demand materialises, most sector analysts are confident that the majority of stores are now in a stronger position to withstand the increasingly tough trading conditions.

D.C.

## Good scope for growth

## MAIL ORDER

AFTER A bright first half to the year, the mail order sector's growth has been inhibited both by the pre-Budget buying boom — which largely favoured High Street retailers — and by the effect of the tax changes in the Budget, which favoured the higher-paid groups which, traditionally, are not strong mail order customers.

Despite this — and the problems caused by the various Post Office industrial disputes, this year — the mail order sector is expected to perform better in total this year than the non-food sector as a whole.

The mail order sector accounts for some 5 per cent of total retail sales, compared with 3.8 per cent in 1971. It also now accounts for 8.7 per cent of non-food retail sales, compared with 7.1 per cent in 1971. Mail order companies had a

total turnover of £2.1bn last year, a 17 per cent increase over 1977.

However, this growth rate was less marked than in previous years, reflecting the less buoyant disposable income of the typical mail order customers.

## Campaigns

Yet, those market analysts who predict that the days of go-go growth for mail-order companies are now over, as a result of changing retail patterns, such as discount stores, as well as there being little growth left in the traditional market of northern working-class housewives, are still probably being unduly pessimistic.

Stockbrokers Phillips and Drew, for example, remain convinced that "there still seems scope for the sector to increase market share." It is suggested that recent recruitment campaigns by the various mail-order companies have produced significant increases in agency strength.

## VALUE OF RETAIL TRADE BY DIFFERENT OUTLETS (1974-1978)

	Total retail trade	Food	Clothing and footwear	Durable goods	Other non-foods	Mail order	Department stores
1974	22,910	9,950	3,605	2,730	5,330	1,135	1,160
1975	28,430	12,015	4,165	2,185	6,360	1,325	1,380
1976	33,810	14,060	4,905	3,550	7,275	1,515	1,605
1977	37,135	16,115	5,260	3,910	8,230	1,805	1,815
1978	42,380	17,975	6,210	4,625	9,355	2,115	2,100

Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit based on Department of Industry Indices and the 1971 Census of Distribution.

"Even allowing for the growing number of dual agents, currently running at a third of all agents, the sector is clearly attracting new customers," say the brokers.

The emphasis on mail order's traditional credit facilities, and the convenience of mail-order shopping, remain strong attractions. In addition, the continuing improvements in various aspects of the mail-order operations — such as catalogue presentation and speed of service — obviously improve the sector's position.

However, the mail-order sector does face a potential problem in the shape of any increased unemployment as a result of economic recession.

The impact of the Budget also shows the way in which the sector's fortunes can be hampered or helped by political moves. The switch from

direct to indirect taxation in the Budget resulted in a redistribution of disposable income in favour of the higher-paid groups. The tax rebates received in October pay packets, therefore, probably had a greater impact on High Street spending than on mail order.

Moreover, as the new higher VAT prices were announced after the autumn/winter catalogues had been printed, the mail order companies have been forced to issue additional price lists with the catalogues. "This constant reminder of the price increases could well be a deterrent to customers, while it will also be more difficult for the mail-order companies to load the price increases in such a way as to maintain the prices on key lines," point out Phillips and Drew.

D.C.

## The demand remains strong

## CONSUMER DURABLES

CONSUMER DURABLE retailers are still trying to recover from the massive pre-Budget buying spree last summer when stocks of durables, such as colour televisions, fridges, and freezers, were snapped up by an eager public, keen to beat any swinging VAT increase.

In fact, since most electrical durables were already carrying VAT at the higher rate of 12.5 per cent, consumers — were actually making the least savings in buying durables rather than other goods which were carrying the lower VAT rates.

However, the pre-Budget spending spree reflects the strength of demand for durables over the past 18 months during the peak period of the consumer boom.

This was in contrast to the

previous four years when volume growth in durables was very low in line with the overall economic recession. In 1978 durable goods retailers had combined sales of more than £2.5bn which represented a rise of almost a fifth on the previous year — the highest sales growth rate ever for the durable sector. But, more encouragingly for the trade, was the increase in volume growth last year after years of static volume sales.

In contrast to the last major boom within the sector in 1972-1973, there was little benefit from the introduction of new products, with the surge in sales coming, therefore, from the build up in replacement demand after the prolonged squeeze on living standards.

However, the contribution from new products is likely to become increasingly important to the sector during the next few years. Leading retailers are making a significant marketing effort to promote the new generation of sophisticated video hardware, such as video games

and cassette recorders. Growth in demand for these new products should help to offset any slow-down in replacement demand.

Specialist electrical durable goods retailers have faced stiff competition during the past 18 months from non-specialist outlets such as Tesco, Asda, and Woolworths which have all captured an increasing share of the market, although still accounting for a smaller proportion than the specialist shops. But as growth in the sector slows down, and new products become more important, it seems likely that this will favour the specialist stores who are increasing their marketing activities for new products.

## Expansion

Within the specialist sector, the multiple chains have been increasing their share of the market at the expense of the independents. As the multiples only account for some 40 per cent of total sales through specialist shops, there is substantial room for further expansion.

The largest multiple is the Currys chain, followed by Comet, Rumbelows, and Trident.

In the immediate future, the Economist Intelligence Unit has forecast that turnover increases will be cut back quite sharply for all the various sub-sectors of the industry, except for television rental specialists "who have been faring relatively less well recently for particular reasons, including partly artificial price restraint and competition," says the EIU.

But the EIU adds that "feeling freed from moral obligations to restrain price rises and facing a downturn in market buoyancy, the rental specialists can be expected to respond with price increases so that turnover might be expected to rise of the order of 15 per cent for the year to around £1.2bn."

Significantly, Currys has recently announced plans for its own entry into the television rental market.

D.C.

## Hopes for better trading

## CLOTHING

CLOTHING RETAILERS, like everyone else in the High Street, are affected by the level of consumer spending, but no other segment of retail trade, except perhaps footwear, is so vulnerable to changes of fashion and the vagaries of the weather.

This year has certainly proved the point, and before looking forward to 1980, with all the likely pressures for the retail sector, a retrospective appraisal must be made of 1979. The clothing retailers will be comparing next year's results with a particularly difficult period and many seem to be reasonably confident.

The weather has been one of the big problems in 1979. The spring was too cold and fashion lines did not move at all well. And besides the weather problem, the clothing sector had to face the Government's VAT hike. In anticipation of the increases, consumer spending

shot up ahead of the higher rates, but the clothing sector saw little of this bonanza. The public was out buying "big ticket" items — it was the durable retailers who had the fun.

This diversion of spending away from clothes also left a big vacuum in the summer, when the public had little spare cash to go out and spend on new clothes. The fashion end of the trade was particularly hit, and by the end of the season many retailers were left overstocked and dramatic "mark downs" were needed to move lines, with an obvious depressing impact on profits.

Finally, an Indian summer hit sales of autumn/winter clothing, rounding off a pretty poor year.

That is now history, but for all we know the weather and the traditional sales periods for clothing could be out of phase again next year. No matter how hard the retailers try to buy to match demand with profit, the fashion trade is always something of a gamble.

Those who have been hardest hit in 1979 should logically fare

much better next year, assuming a normal pattern. Chains such as Harry Fenton (part of Combined English Stores), Lord John and Lady at Lord John (part of Raybeck) and Miss Selfridge (part of Sears) which have been riding a rough patch, should see better trading.

The more stable areas of clothing sales, such as those enjoyed by the multiples, Marks and Spencer, British Home Stores and Littlewoods, have had a much better year, but by the same token the prospects for growth in 1980 are more restricted.

## Pressure

On the menswear front, both Burton and Hepworth are better placed to face any pressure on the market than they were in the early 'seventies. Structural problems, in particular those of Burton, have been overcome to a great extent.

Burton has changed its image dramatically in recent years by widening its appeal to younger buyers and more casual clothes. It is the company's conviction

that men — not just young men — are generally becoming more fashion conscious and requiring a greater range of clothes.

Burton has also expanded significantly into ladies clothing. At the beginning of September it bought the Dorothy Perkins chain of fashion stores which roughly means that the group is equally represented in both ladies' and men's clothing in terms of sales. As the company brings Dorothy Perkins into the group there will be benefits which should leave the company reasonably well-placed next year.

As for the West End, that has been particularly hard-hit because of the lower level of tourist spending. Next year should see some revival in the fortunes for West End clothing retailers, in line with much of the fashion end of the trade — but, unless sterling collapses, a modest rate of growth (rather than the boom conditions of a couple of years ago) look to be the order of the day.

T.G.



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## This little piggy went to market

**DAILY Mirror** WIN A FABULOUS HOLIDAY IN HAWAII

**PORK'S GOT THE LOT!**

It's a great favourite with my family, says Enid Baker

TAKE TEN TASTY TIPS... See page 2

ASK THE EXPERT... See page 3

FREEZER FACTS... See page 6

Ring and win... See page 7

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From November 1-15, British Meat are running an ad each day, including three double-page spreads. Each ad contains a special phone number, linking the caller to MGN's special Ansafone facility. Tape Time and fifteen mouth-watering recipes. It makes sense to market with the Mirror/Record. After all, one success leads to another. Just imagine the power of a branding process which links your product with ours. And then give these guys a ring. Ron Oxley (01-622-3181) or Charles Johnson (01-622-3312).

**Mirror Group Newspapers**



Increased profit from Munich Re

By Jonathan Carr in Bonn

MUNICH RE, which claims to be the world's largest reinsurance enterprise, raised net profit to DM 55m (\$30.6m) in the year ended June 30, compared with DM 47m, a gain of 17 per cent. The company proposes to pay an unchanged dividend of 18 per cent on eligible capital raised by DM 42m to DM 47m, and is confident that the dividend will be maintained in the current year.

While premium income increased last year by 7.7 per cent to DM 6.1bn, profits from the reinsurance business alone fell to about DM 23m from DM 35m a year earlier. The decline was due to difficulties in domestic business—particularly in the fire and transport insurance sectors while foreign results improved. The lion's share of the group's profits—DM 104m compared with DM 42m a year earlier—came from reinsurance but from so-called "general business," that is primarily investment income.

The balance sheet value of the company's investments amounted to DM 9.5bn at June 30, compared with DM 5.5bn. A total of DM 71m is being added to reserves.

Norwegian engineer still in surplus

By Fay Gjerster in Oslo

NORWAY'S Aker shipbuilding and heavy engineering group achieved a small profit in the first eight months of this year despite the shipbuilding recession. More than half the group's capacity was employed in offshore construction and industrial contracting.

Profit before extraordinary items for the eight months was Nkr 10.6m (\$2.1m) compared with Nkr 40.3m. Extraordinary items amounted to Nkr 10m, down from Nkr 40.2m a year earlier, so that the profit before tax and year end appropriations was Nkr 600,000, compared with Nkr 100,000. The remaining four months of 1979 are not expected to alter this picture, the group says.

A total of 11.9m man hours were worked by Aker employees in the period, compared with 11.5m a year earlier. Of the total, offshore contracting accounted for 33 per cent (22 per cent) and industrial and miscellaneous production for 21 per cent (19 per cent). Sales for the eight months were Nkr 1.87bn, against Nkr 1.9bn. Work on platforms and other

offshore constructions fell, however, to 14 per cent of the total, from 25 per cent a year earlier, and shipbuilding work to 18 per cent, from 24 per cent.

On future prospects, Aker says that overall capacity is booked until the summer of 1980, but some yards need new orders soon if redundancies are to be avoided. Construction work on the Ekofisk field and on the first platform for the Anglo-Norwegian Stafford field, continues to occupy a good deal of the group's capacity, but these assignments are now nearly completed.

While major contracts can be expected eventually in connection with the exploitation of recent finds in Norway's part of the North Sea, the group is worried that there may be a gap in development work once present projects have been finished. It urges early decisions on the building of a third platform for the Stafford field, and on development of four other round blocks, such as 34/10 and 30/6.

At end August, Aker group employees numbered 11,487, compared with 11,568 on January 1.

Swiss Bank Corporation improving

By Our Financial Staff

SWISS BANK CORPORATION, one of the big three commercial banks in Switzerland, expects significantly improved results for 1979 following a rise of 15 per cent in revenue over the first nine months of the year.

Speaking at a Press conference in Zurich, chief executive Franz Schmitz, explained that although 1979 would not be a "boom year," overall net earnings would be higher than the SWFR 223m achieved in 1978 when a decline of 6 per cent was suffered.

Earlier this month a 15 per cent rise in net earnings for 1979 was forecast by the Union Bank of Switzerland, also one of the Swiss big three. UBS hinted at a higher dividend for the year and suggested that the improving trend of profits would continue into 1980.

The SBC conference was told that foreign credit business had picked up after a period of long stagnation. Loans to non-bank foreign customers rose by 42.5 per cent to SWFR 15.5m in the first nine months of this year, and for the first time exceeded loans to domestic clients. The bank had to curb loans to foreign customers in the third quarter, however.

Herr Schmitz said the bank will continue to expand its presence abroad, but only where it sees firm prospects for increasing its business. The volume of Eurodollar credits in the first nine months of 1979 was a record at SWFR 55bn.

At present the bank had no plans to raise fresh capital, but said a move in the spring of 1980 was not excluded.

Turning to interest rates, Herr Schmitz suggested that the Swiss national bank was trying to break the current rise in the cost of money. However, his view was that rates would rise by a further point before reaching a peak.

PENDING DIVIDENDS

For the convenience of readers the dates when some of the more important company dividend statements may be expected in the next few weeks are given in the following table. The dates shown are those of last year's announcements, except where the forthcoming board meetings (indicated thus) have been officially published. It should be emphasized that the dividends to be declared will not necessarily be at the amounts or rates per cent shown in the column headed "Announcement last year."

Date	Announcement last year	Date	Announcement last year
*ANZ Inds. .... Nov. 19	Final 11 cents	*Land Secs. .... Nov. 15	Int. 1.5
Airfr Inds. .... Nov. 28	Int. 1.3719	Lloyds & Co. .... Dec. 14	Final 2.706
Amalgamated .... Dec. 14	Int. 2.01	Land, Mich. .... Dec. 14	Int. 0.335
Associated Comm. .... Dec. 14	Int. 3.1	MEPC .... Dec. 14	Final 2.228
*Associated Eng. .... Dec. 13	Final 3.82	Morley .... Dec. 14	Final 1.781
Avon Rubber .... Nov. 29	Int. due	*Mortg. L.J. .... Dec. 12	Int. 2.0
Baker Perkins .... Dec. 7	Int. 2.1	*Metal Box .... Nov. 29	Int. 7.37
Bass .... Dec. 14	Int. 4.3	*Mitsubishi Cos. .... Dec. 7	Final 2.1
*Becham .... Nov. 22	Int. 3.38	Morrisons .... Dec. 15	Int. 1.75
BPE Inds. .... Nov. 28	Int. 4.2	*Pegler .... Dec. 14	Int. 1.35
Bordwick (T.) .... Dec. 12	Int. 3.8	*Philips Inds. .... Nov. 13	Int. 0.60 Ft
Brit. & Cornw. .... Dec. 15	Int. 4.75	*Pilkington .... Dec. 14	Int. 3.3
*British Sug. .... Nov. 13	Final 3.554	*Powers .... Dec. 14	Int. 2.0
*Brookhouse .... Nov. 22	Final 2.246	*Prop. Ind. .... Dec. 18	Int. 2.0
Brown (Mans.) .... Nov. 27	Final 3.29	*Racal .... Dec. 14	Int. 1.9
*Brown Shipley .... Nov. 13	Int. 5.294	*RBM .... Dec. 6	Int. 1.988
Capital and Counties .... Nov. 23	Int. 0.7	*Radcliff .... Nov. 23	Int. 2.551
Charron Cos. .... Nov. 15	Int. 5.025	*Reidol .... Nov. 23	Int. 2.7
*Chloride .... Nov. 14	Int. 1.5	*Rothschild .... Nov. 23	Int. 0.8
*Chubb .... Nov. 14	Int. 1.883	*Royal Bk. of Scotland .... Nov. 30	Final 1.585
*Compair .... Dec. 13	Final 2.287	*600 Group .... Nov. 30	Int. 2.055
*Courtauld .... Nov. 22	Int. 2.088	*Salomon Bros. .... Nov. 15	Int. 5.8
Dabson .... Nov. 22	Int. 4.2	*Serk .... Dec. 13	Final 6.334
*Gen. Tel. .... Nov. 29	Int. 4.9	*Smiths Inds. .... Nov. 13	Int. 4.807
*De La Rue .... Nov. 14	Int. 1.162	*Simons .... Dec. 13	Int. 0.154
*De La Rue .... Nov. 13	Int. 3.905	*Stanhope .... Dec. 14	Final 2.7
*Diablen .... Dec. 14	Int. 3.0	*St. James .... Nov. 28	Int. 1.25
*Park Inds. .... Dec. 12	Final 2.5	*Teesco .... Nov. 22	Int. 0.789
*Ferguson Ind. .... Nov. 23	Int. 3.0	*Times .... Nov. 22	Int. 4.0
*French Kay .... Nov. 22	Int. 0.825	*UKO .... Nov. 23	Int. 1.0
*Gen. Electric .... Dec. 7	Int. 3.25	*Unilever .... Nov. 16	Int. 3.2
*Gt. Portland .... Dec. 19	Int. 1.0	*Uniq. Gas Ind. .... Dec. 14	Int. 1.705
*GUS .... Dec. 7	Int. 4.029	*Vaux. .... Nov. 15	Int. 0.54
*Guinness (A.) .... Dec. 15	Int. 6.23	*Ward & Goldstone .... Dec. 12	Int. 0.9
*Guthrie .... Dec. 13	Int. 6.0	*Widgeway .... Nov. 17	Int. 1.75
*Hanson Trust .... Dec. 6	Int. 4.071	*Whitecroft .... Dec. 11	Int. 2.5
*Hays Wharf .... Nov. 23	Final 4.834	*Wolfrum & Co. .... Dec. 14	Int. 4.229
*Hill Samuel .... Dec. 14	Int. 1.834	*Woodward (Jones) .... Dec. 8	Int. 1.371
*ICL .... Dec. 14	Int. 5.424		
*Ind. Timber .... Dec. 15	Int. 1.5		
*Johns .... Dec. 15	Int. 4.289		
*K. Shoes .... Dec. 7	Int. 6.5		
*Kwik Save .... Nov. 21	Final 1.84		
*LRC Int. .... Dec. 13	Int. 0.888		
*LW .... Nov. 15	Int. 5.727		

Rich lifts

By Our Tokyo Correspondent

RICOH COMPANY, a leading maker of plain paper copiers, increased net profits by 50.3 per cent in the half-year ended September 30, to ¥5,590m (\$53.3m), despite a decline in exports related in part to renegotiations of overseas sales contracts.

Sales were up 9.7 per cent to ¥10,570m (\$101.4m), but this was much lower than the growth rates of past years, in which the company expanded in the copier business both at home and abroad. Copier sales accounted for 63.7 per cent of all sales.

Overall exports were down 12.8 per cent and the share of total sales slipped to 29.4 per cent from 36.9 per cent last year. The company is changing its contracts with three major distributors which have exclusive rights in the U.S., Canada and parts of Europe.

For the full year ending next March, Ricoh expects sales will rise 13.9 per cent to ¥22.3bn while net profits increase 43.2 per cent to ¥11.5bn.

New products boost sales at Japanese camera group

By Richard Hanson in Tokyo

NIPPON KOGAKU, the maker of Nikon cameras, has reported a 37.3 per cent rise in net profit for the half-year ended September 30, to ¥1,850m (\$17.7m) with sales—boosted by the introduction of a new, highly automated camera—up 16 per cent to ¥4,700m (\$45.6m).

In contrast Minolta Camera, a major competitor in the quality camera market, said that its net profit for the half was broadly unchanged at ¥1,350m on sales rising 2.1 per cent to ¥43,120m. The company's new models, launched last year, have lost much of their sales buoyancy and exports (81 per cent of sales) have not reflected the fall of the yen, an part because of slow sales in the U.S.

Nippon Kogaku's exports were up by 24.9 per cent despite signs of sluggishness in the North American market. Sales of its Nikon Em camera, introduced last spring, were particularly strong, however, in Europe, and especially in West Germany. The camera is competing well with similar high quality automatic models made by other Japanese camera makers, which were quicker to introduce them. Monthly production has been doubled to 40,000 units.

About 70 per cent of Nippon Kogaku's camera sales (87.6 per cent of all sales) go to exports. Domestic sales expanded at the slower rate of 8.4 per cent, and the export share of all sales topped 80 per cent in the latest half, compared with 47 per cent last year.

Parent company sales for the full year, it is forecast, will be up 15.3 per cent to ¥97.7bn, while net income is expected to gain 23 per cent to ¥3.4bn.

Minolta, on the other hand, expects a 1.4 per cent decline in net profit to ¥2.4bn, with sales up only 2.8 per cent to ¥98bn.

Potential profits for Newfoundland refiner

The Receiver of the bankrupt Come-by-Chance oil refinery of Newfoundland is satisfied that the refinery is potentially capable of operating on a profitable basis, writes our financial staff.

The Receiver is Peat Marwick and Co. Earlier this month an article in the Financial Times stated that the refinery, if re-started, might prove unprofitable.

LOCAL AUTHORITY BOND TABLE

Authority (telephone number in parentheses)	Annual Interest gross pay- interest able	Life Minimum sum bond	%	£	Year
Barnsley (0226 235233)	12 1/2	1-year	250	3-10	
Bradford (0274 295777)	12 1/2	1-year	500	2	
Knowsley (051 548 6553)	12 1/2	1-year	1,000	1	
Knowsley (051 548 6553)	12 1/2	1-year	1,000	5-7	
Poole (02013 8181)	12 1/2	1-year	500	3-4	
Poole (02013 8181)	12 1/2	1-year	500	5	
Poole (02013 8181)	12 1/2	1-year	500	6-7	
Redbridge (01-478 3020)	12 1/2	1-year	300	4-5	
Sandwell (021 680 2220)	12 1/2	1-year	1,000	6-7	
Sefton (051 922 4040)	12 1/2	1-year	2,000	2-4	
Wrexham (0982 505051)	12 1/2	maturity	5,000	1-6mths	

CURRENCIES, MONEY and GOLD

Bad news is good news

By Colin Millham

Bad news is not always disastrous for a currency, as sterling and the dollar proved last week. Last week's UK banking figures indicated a rate of monetary growth much higher than expected, but the pound performed quite well on their announcement, while the dollar was also driven by the news from Iran.

Sterling's strength was a reflection of the belief that measures would be taken to bring money supply growth back within official targets, including a rise in Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate.

The BP stock issue made any increase in M.L.R. unlikely last week, but a rise is still expected.

In the near future the level of bids at Friday's Treasury bill tender underlined market nervousness, with only \$329.64m bid for \$300m bill, compared with \$554.79m for a similar number the previous week. The average rate of discount rose to 14.7581 per cent from 13.4586 per cent, indicating

a rise of 1 1/2 per cent to 15 1/2 per cent in M.L.R. under the market related formula terminated in May last year.

In New York on Friday prime rates were 15 1/2-15 3/4 per cent; Federal funds 13 1/2-14 1/4 per cent; 15-week Treasury bills 12 1/4 per cent; and 28-week bills 12 1/4 per cent.

GOLD				
November 9				
Gold Bullion (fine ounce)				
	Close	Open	High	Low
Close	329.64	329.64	329.64	329.64
Opening	329.64	329.64	329.64	329.64
Morning fixing	329.64	329.64	329.64	329.64
Afternoon fixing	329.64	329.64	329.64	329.64

OTHER MARKETS				
Nov. 9				
	Close	Open	High	Low
Argentina Peso	6305-2325	1550-1640	2030-2720	2030-2720
Australia Dollar	1.9180-1.9170	0.9180-0.9158	0.9180-0.9158	0.9180-0.9158
Brazil Cruzeiro	64.58-65.58	30.80-31.30	11.07-11.19	11.07-11.19
Denmark	7.9500-7.9700	2.8125-2.8145	8.77-8.84	8.77-8.84
France	78.09-78.97	37.35-37.50	8.74-8.77	8.74-8.77
Germany	10.95-10.50	3.93-3.95	17.30-17.75	17.30-17.75
India	146.95-152.78	70.25-72.80	0.08-0.15	0.08-0.15
Indonesia	0.5810-0.591	0.2785-0.2800	2.15-2.17	2.15-2.17
Italy	1.208-1.205	0.70-0.70	1.15-1.15	1.15-1.15
Japan	4.9775-4.9875	1.9360-1.9370	103.5-109	103.5-109
Malaysia	1.1945-1.1705	1.0360-1.0355	137-140	137-140
New Zealand	0.814-0.815	0.43-0.44	8.43-8.44	8.43-8.44
Singapore	1.1250-1.1210	0.8200-0.8200	1.05-1.06	1.05-1.06
South Africa	1.2890-1.2710	0.8200-0.8200	454-456	454-456

THE DOLLAR SPOT AND FORWARD				
Nov. 9				
	Day's spread	Close	One month	% Three months
UK	2.0835-2.0875	2.0815-2.0825	0.0-0.10c	-0.29 0.07-0.77m
Belgium	2.0835-2.0875	2.0815-2.0825	0.0-0.10c	-0.29 0.07-0.77m
Canada	1.1900-1.1905	1.1900-1.1905	0.12-0.08c	1.01 0.44-0.30c
Netherlands	1.9820-1.9855	1.9840-1.9850	0.05-0.70c	4.87 2.63-2.53c
France	2.0000-2.0010	2.0000-2.0010	0.0-0.10c	-0.29 0.07-0.77m
Germany	5.3055-5.3065	5.3055-5.3065	1.5-1.70c	3.39 3.75-4.25c
Italy	1.7915-1.7950	1.7940-1.7950	0.0-0.10c	-0.29 0.07-0.77m
Spain	60.27-60.27	60.27-60.27	0.0-0.10c	-0.29 0.07-0.77m
Sweden	3.0000-3.0010	3.0000-3.0010	0.0-0.10c	-0.29 0.07-0.77m
Switzerland	4.2535-4.2580	4.2545-4.2550	0.0-0.10c	-0.29 0.07-0.77m
Japan	242.10-243.00	242.10-243.00	1.0-2.50c	7.75 4.50-3.50c
Australia	12.80-12.90	12.80-12.90	1.30-1.60c	7.51 22.0-21.0c
South Africa	1.6490-1.6590	1.6525-1.6535	1.75-1.70c	12.82 4.50-3.50c

THE POUND SPOT AND FORWARD				
Nov. 9				
	Day's spread	Close	One month	% Three months
U.S.	2.0835-2.0875	2.0815-2.0825	0.0-0.10c	-0.29 0.07-0.77m
Canada	2.0835-2.0875	2.0815-2.0825	0.0-0.10c	-0.29 0.07-0.77m
Netherlands	4.15-4.18	4.17-4.18	0.1-0.10c	0.38 0.52-0.52c
France	60.40-60.45	60.40-60.45	0.0-0.10c	-0.29 0.07-0.77m
Germany	11.05-11.10	11.05-11.10	0.0-0.10c	-0.29 0.07-0.77m
Italy	1.0100-1.0105	1.0100-1.0105	0.0-0.10c	-0.29 0.07-0.77m
Japan	1.208-1.205	1.208-1.205	0.0-0.10c	-0.29 0.07-0.77m
Sweden	1.208-1.205	1.208-1.205	0.0-0.10c	-0.29 0.07-0.77m
Switzerland	1.208-1.205	1.208-1.205	0.0-0.10c	-0.29 0.07-0.77m
Belgium	1.208-1.205	1.208-1.205	0.0-0.10c	-0.29 0.07-0.77m

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES				
The following nominal rates for London dollar certificates of deposit one-month 14.50-15.00 per cent; three months 15.30-15.40 per cent; six months 14.95-15.05 per cent; one year 12.90-14.00 per cent.				
	Nov. 9	Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Canadian Dollar
180 days term	13.80-13.90	13.80-13.90	13.80-13.90	13.80-13.90
90 days notice	13.80-13.90	13.80-13.90	13.80-13.90	13.80-13.90
One month	14.10-14.20	14.10-14.20	14.10-14.20	14.10-14.20
Three months	14.10-14.20	14.10-14.20	14.10-14.20	14.10-14.20
Six months	14.10-14.20	14.10-14.20	14.10-14.20	14.10-14.20
One year	14.10-14.20	14.10-14.20	14.10-14.20	14.10-14.20

CURRENCY RATES				
Nov. 9				
	Bank Rate	Special Drawing Rights	European Unit	
Switzerland	14	0.614688	0.650901	
Belgium	12	1.369778	1.369778	
Canada	14	1.581919	1.581919	
Australia	10	1.55945	1.55945	
France	20	37.5680	40.1180	
Germany	12	1.369778	1.369778	
Italy	8	2.05977	2.05977	
Japan	12	1069.08	1149.24	
Netherlands	6	50.9335	54.8828	
Sweden	12	36.5818	39.2908	
Spain	8	5.49824	5.97947	
Switzerland	8	2.11813	2.27008	

I.G. Index Limited 01-351 3466. March Sugar 183.85-184.45. 23 Lombard Road, London SW10 0BS.

1. Tax-free trading on commodity futures.  
2. The commodity futures market for the small investor.

RECENT ISSUES

INSURANCE BASE RATES

Property Growth	13 1/2%
Vanbrugh Guaranteed	13 1/2%
Address shown under Insurance and Property Bond Table.	

EQUITIES

1479				
Issue Price	High	Low	Close	Change
120 F.P. 120	108	70	70	0
120 F.P. 120	108	70	70	0
120 F.P. 120	108	70	70	0
120 F.P. 120	108	70	70	0
120 F.P. 120	108	70	70	0

FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

1979		Stock		+ or -	
Issue Price	High	Low			
100 F.P. 100	108	84	Bristol Waterworks 5% Red. Pref. 1894	84	
100 F.P. 100	108	103	Cambridge Water & Rad. Pref. 1894	103 1/2	
100 F.P. 100	100	100	Eastern Waterworks 5% Red. Pref.	100 1/2	
100 F.P. 100	105 1/2	105 1/2	Forminster 10% Cum. Pref.	101 1/2	
100 F.P. 100	98 1/2	98 1/2	Mill Samuel Plating Rate Notes 1928	97 1/2	
100 F.P. 100	101	101	London Trust 1 1/2% Deb. 30% 2000-04	98	
100 F.P. 100	99 1/2	99 1/2	Macklow A. & S. 14 1/2% Int. Deb. 2000-05	97 1/2	
100 F.P. 100	101	101	Starline Eng. 1 1/2% Cum. Pref.	101 1/2	
100 F.P. 100	100	99	Wintrust 10% Cum. Pref.	99	

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**INSURANCE—Continued**

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS Cont

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